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MAGNA BRITANNIA;
BEING
A CONCISE TOPOGRAPHICAL ACCOUNT
OF
THE SEVERAL COUNTIES
OF
G R E A T B R I T A I N.

By the Rev. DANIEL LYSONS, A.M. F.R.S. F.A. and L.S.

RECTOR OF RODMARTON IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE;

And SAMUEL LYSONS, Esq. F.R.S. and F.A.S.

KEEPER OF HIS MAJESTY'S RECORDS IN THE TOWER OF LONDON.

VOLUME THE FIRST,
CONTAINING
BEDFORDSHIRE, BERKSHIRE, AND BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR T. CADELL AND W. DAVIES IN THE STRÁND.
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TO
HIS MOST SACRED MAJESTY
KING GEORGE THE THIRD,

THIS ATTEMPT TO ILLUSTRATE
THE TOPOGRAPHY OF GREAT BRITAIN,

IS,
WITH HIS MAJESTY'S GRACIOUS PERMISSION,
HUMBLY DEDICATED,

BY
HIS MAJESTY'S

MOST DUTIFUL SUBJECTS,
AND FAITHFUL SERVANTS,

DANIEL LYSONS.
SAMUEL LYSONS.

ADVERTISEMENT.

ALTHOUGH copious and well-executed Histories of several Counties have been published, and although the *Britannia* of the learned Camden has been universally and justly regarded as an excellent work relating to the kingdom at large; yet as the former, besides being for the most part very scarce, are moreover so bulky, as to form of themselves a library of no inconsiderable extent; and as the *Britannia* gives only a general view of each county; it appeared to us that there was still room for a work, which should contain an account of each parish, in a compressed form, and arranged in an order convenient for reference.

These considerations have given rise to the following work, in which all matters that would readily admit of such an arrangement are reduced under distinct heads; and the brief account of the descent of property, and other local particulars in each parish, are classed alphabetically; and we have endeavoured rather to make ourselves clearly understood, than to display a more ornamented style, which we conceived less adapted to a work of this kind. With respect to the plates, we have selected such subjects as presented the greatest variety, and appeared to us to be the most interesting; and we flatter ourselves, that the manner in which they are executed, will be found adequate to convey an accurate idea of the objects intended to be represented*.

* A set of finished engravings of views selected from the counties of Bedford, Berks, and Bucks, executed by the late Mr. William Byrne, from drawings by the best masters, are published by Messrs. Cadell and Davies, at the same time with this volume.

The materials from which this work has been compiled, independently of those derived from the best printed authorities, have been drawn from the following sources; 1st, *Ancient Records and Manuscripts* preserved in the British Museum, and in various publick offices; particularly from that inexhaustible treasure of antient historical evidences, his Majesty's Records in the Tower of London, which we have had the advantage of consulting at all times, and the Records of the Augmentation office, to which we have had free access through the liberality of John Caley esq. which we have experienced on former occasions; our thanks are also due to the Right Hon. George Rose, to Robert Gray esq. Richard Gray esq. and Robert Harper esq. for the permission they have given us to consult any of the records at the Chapter-house Westminster, the Duchy of Cornwall office, the Auditors of the Land-Revenue office, and the Duchy of Lancaster Office; and to Ralph Bigland esq. Norroy King at Arms, Francis Townsend esq. Windsor-Herald, and George Naylor esq. York-Herald, for the readiness with which they have furnished us with such information as we stood in need of from the College of Arms: and, 2dly, *Personal Surveys* in each county, where we have acquired much valuable information, particularly from the Clergy and the gentlemen of the profession of the Law, to whom our acknowledgments are due for their ready assistance. We are also much indebted to the Lords Bishops of Lincoln and Sarum, for their kind assistance in their respective dioceses, in which the three Counties contained in this volume are included; and to the Lord Bishop of Cloyne for his valuable communications on the subject of the Roman Roads and Stations in each county.

It was our intention to have given some observations on the architecture of the middle ages in our General Introduction, but we conceived that they might be better introduced in the next volume, where we shall have an opportunity of referring to some excellent examples of different styles, taken from Ely Cathedral. In the mean time, it may be proper to observe, that in the present volume we
have

have called the architecture of our ancient buildings, in which the circular arch is the most striking characteristick, by the general name of *Saxon*, that being the appellation by which it is best understood, and not having hitherto discovered any difference sufficiently striking to constitute a distinct style: we have also in conformity to general usage, called that style, of which the pointed arch is the leading feature, *Gothic*; as, however inappropriate the term may be if we regard its etymology, it is in our opinion better to employ it, sanctioned as it is by common use, than to adopt either of those which have been proposed in its stead, and which are not so generally understood. In our General Introduction we have not enlarged on the early History of Britain, that subject having been fully treated of by preceding writers; and, being in our opinion, more immediately connected with an historical than a topographical work.

A longer space of time has been occupied in collecting materials for this volume than we had expected: this however will not occasion much surprise when it is considered that there are no histories either of Bedfordshire, Berkshire, or Buckinghamshire; and that though the present work is much compressed, the collections made for it were nearly the same as for so many County-histories. Various alterations in the state of property, and other particulars, have doubtless occurred since its commencement: such as have come to our knowledge are noticed at the end of the volume; and for the rest, as well as for such errors, as are almost inseparable from a work of this kind, whatever care has been taken to avoid them, we rely on the candour and indulgence of the public.

THE HISTORY OF THE
CITY OF BOSTON

FROM THE FIRST SETTLEMENT
TO THE PRESENT TIME
BY
JOHN B. HENNING, ESQ.
OF THE BARR

IN TWO VOLUMES.
VOL. I.
BOSTON: PUBLISHED BY
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GENERAL

GENERAL INTRODUCTION.

CAMDEN, speaking of the Etymology of the word *Britain*, with great justice, seems to doubt the possibility of coming at the truth, “buried deep as it is in the obscurity of ages.” It is certain that no succeeding writer has given any satisfactory explanation of the word; but it is the general opinion of the learned, that it is of Celtic origin.

The early history of Britain is involved in so much fabulous obscurity, that there is nothing on which we can place any reliance as an historical fact, till the arrival of the Romans; who found this island divided into 34 different tribes, seventeen of which occupying that part of it now called Scotland, according to Ptolemy were the *Caledonii*, *Cantæ*, *Careni*, *Carnonacæ*, *Cerones*, *Cornavii*, *Creones*, *Damnii*, *Epidii*, *Logi*, *Mertæ*, *Novantes*, *Selgovæ*, *Texali*, *Vacomagi*, *Venicones*, and the *Gadeni*, whose territories seem to have extended into Northumberland.

According to Camden^a, the English counties were thus occupied by the remaining states :

<i>Attrebatii</i> ,			Berkshire.
<i>Belgæ</i> ,	-	-	{ Somersetshire.
			{ Wiltshire.
			{ Hampshire.
			{ Yorkshire ^b .
<i>Brigantes</i> ,	-	-	{ Lancashire.
			{ Durham.
			{ Westmorland.
			{ Cumberland.
<i>Cantii</i> ,	-	-	Kent.

^a Where later writers of good authority have differed in opinion from Camden, it will be noticed in the introduction to each county.

A people called the *Parisi* are placed by Ptolemy about the East Riding of Yorkshire.

GENERAL INTRODUCTION.

<i>Cattieuchlani,</i>	-	-	{ Buckinghamshire.
			{ Bedfordshire.
			{ Hertfordshire.
			{ Lincolnshire.
			{ Leicestershire.
<i>Coritani,</i>	-	-	{ Rutlandshire.
			{ Derbyshire.
			{ Nottinghamshire.
			{ Northamptonshire.
			{ Warwickshire.
<i>Cornavii,</i>	-	-	{ Worcestershire.
			{ Staffordshire.
			{ Shropshire.
			{ Cheshire.
			{ Carmarthenshire.
<i>Dimetæ,</i>	-	-	{ Pembrokeshire.
			{ Cardiganshire.
			{ Gloucestershire.
<i>Dobuni,</i>	-	-	{ Oxfordshire.
			{ Devonshire.
<i>Danmonii,</i>	-	-	{ Cornwall.
<i>Durotriges,</i>	-	-	{ Dorsetshire.
			{ Norfolk.
<i>Iceni,</i>	-	-	{ Suffolk.
			{ Cambridgeshire.
			{ Huntingdonshire.
			{ Montgomeryshire.
			{ Merionethshire.
<i>Ordevices,</i>	-	-	{ Carnarvonshire.
			{ Flintshire.
			{ Denbighshire.
<i>Ottadini^c,</i>	-	-	{ Northumberland.
			{ Suffex.
<i>Regni,</i>	-	-	{ Surrey.
			{ Herefordshire.
			{ Radnorshire.
<i>Silures,</i>	-	-	{ Brecknockshire.
			{ Monmouthshire.
			{ Glamorganshire.
			{ Effex.
<i>Trinobantes,</i>	-	-	{ Middlesex.

* The *Ottadini* and the *Gaeleni* are by some supposed to have been the same people.

The first division of Britain, or more properly of England and Wales, made by the Romans, was into *Britannia inferior*, and *Britannia superior*: a still more ancient division mentioned by Ptolemy into *Britannia magna* and *parva*, is understood by Camden to refer to Great-Britain and Ireland, and by some other writers to England and Scotland. *Britannia inferior* is supposed to have comprised the northern part of England, and *Britannia Superior*, the more southern part and Wales. This division is supposed by Camden to have been made by Severus, who according to Herodian, divided the government of the province of Britain into two *præfecturæ*: Scotland they had long before this time abandoned as unprofitable.

The Romans afterwards divided the province of Britain into three parts, *Maxima Cæsariensis*, *Britannia Prima*, and *Britannia Secunda*: Camden supposes these to correspond with the three archbishoprics which anciently existed in Britain, London, (afterwards removed to Canterbury,) York, and Caerleon which included Wales; his reason is, that Pope Lucius insinuates that the Christians established their ecclesiastical jurisdictions in imitation of those of the Roman magistrates, and that the archbishops fixed their sees in the cities where the Roman Governors had their residence; the province of London, as being nearer Rome, he supposes to have been *Britannia Prima*, it having been customary to give the name of *Prima* to that part of their foreign colonies which was so situated; Wales, which was subject to the Bishop of Caerleon, *Britannia Secunda*; and the province of York, *Maxima Cæsariensis*. In the next age they divided Britain into five parts, retaining the three former names, and adding those of *Valentia*, and *Flavia Cæsariensis*. *Valentia* was doubtless the northern part of *Maxima Cæsariensis*, recovered by Theodosius from the Picts and Scots, and called in honor of his master the Emperor Valens, *Valentia*: from this time it was considered as a separate district, and had a governor of its own. *Flavia Cæsariensis* is supposed by Camden, following the opinion of Giraldus Cambrensis, to have been in the centre of England, probably taken partly from *Britannia Prima*, and partly from the southern part of *Maxima Cæsariensis*; and called *Flavia*, as Camden with great probability supposes, in honour of *Flavius Theodosius*, the Emperor, son of the above-mentioned *Theodosius*. When the Romans had abandoned Britain, and the Saxons invited to assist the harassed inhabitants against the Scots and Picts, had turned their arms against those whom they came to aid, and after many bloody conflicts had made themselves masters of their country, they divided the whole Roman province, excepting Wales where the remains of the Britons had retired, into seven kingdoms, known by the name of the Saxon Heptarchy, viz. Kent, Suffex, East-Anglia, Wessex, Northumberland, Essex, and Mercia.

Under the Saxon heptarchy, England was not divided into counties properly
so

so called, but into certain districts, thirty-four in number, containing each a definite number of hides. They are enumerated by Camden from an ancient MS. but their names are in general so different from those of any of our modern counties, or districts, that it would be very difficult, and perhaps impossible, to ascertain their positions. The situation of a few, as *Ciltarn-jetna*, *Cant-Warena*, and *Suth-Sexena*, are obvious. Although England was not divided into counties, before the whole kingdom was united into one monarchy under Alfred; yet it is sufficiently ascertained, from the testimony of ancient historians, that the present counties were divided among the seven kingdoms of the Heptarchy, according to the following table.

The Kingdom of Kent comprehended the county of Kent only; Suffex, or the Kingdom of the South Saxons, Suffex and Surrey;

The Kingdom of the East-Angles,	} <i>The</i> <i>Counties of</i>	Norfolk.
		Suffolk.
Wessex, or the Kingdom of the West Saxons.	}	Cambridge, with the Isle of Ely.
		Cornwall.
		Devon.
		Dorset.
		Somerfet.
The Kingdom of Northumberland,	}	Wilts.
		Hants.
		Berks.
		Lancaster.
		York.
		Durham.
Essex, or the Kingdom of the East Saxons,	}	Cumberland.
		Westmorland.
		Northumberland, and the more southern parts of Scotland.
		Essex.
		Middlesex, and Part of Hertford.
		Gloucester.
		Hereford.
		Warwick.
The Kingdom of Mercia,	}	Worcester.
		Leicester.
		Rutland.
		Northampton.
		Lincoln.
		Huntingdon.
		Bedford.

Buckingham.

	Buckingham.
	Oxford.
	Stafford.
	Salop.
	Derby.
	Nottingham.
	Chester and Part of Hertford.

The counties are also called shires, from the Saxon word *Scyre*, signifying to divide. At the first distribution of them there were only 32, as may be collected from a passage in William of Malmesbury^d. “At this time, says Camden, the counties were divided according to the diversity of laws. For the laws of England were of three sorts, those of the West Saxons, called *West Saxonlage*, of the Danes called *Danelage*, and of the Mercians, called *Merchenlage*: The West Saxon laws obtained in nine counties, Kent, Surrey, Suffex, Berks, Hants, Wilts, Somerset, Dorset, and Devon: those of the Danes in fifteen; York, Derby, Nottingham, Leicester, Lincoln, Northampton, Bedford, Bucks, Herts, Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridge and Huntingdon. The other counties, Gloucester, Worcester, Hereford, Warwick, Oxford, Chester, Salop and Stafford, were governed by the Mercian laws.” This opinion of a diversity of laws, obtaining in the three districts, was generally received among antiquaries, till Bishop Nicholson’s time; who has ably refuted it in his preface to Wilkins’s edition of the Saxon laws, and shewn that the word *lage*, mistaken by the Norman writers for their *ley* or *loi*, in reality signifies *ditio*, or jurisdiction; and that there was not such a diversity of laws, although there were so many governments. In the survey of Domesday 34 counties are described: Northumberland, Westmorland, and Cumberland, then belonged to the Scots; Durham and Lancashire are omitted: these make up the number 39: Monmouth, which was made an English county in the reign of Charles II. completes the present number of 40. Camden says that the Welch counties were six in number in the reign of Edward I. and that the others were formed by act of parliament in the reign of Henry VIII.: but it appears by the act itself, that there had been eight shires of ancient and long time, viz. Glamorgan, Carmarthen, Pembroke, Cardigan, Flint, Carnarvon, Anglesey, and Merioneth; Monmouth, (afterwards made, as before-mentioned, an English county) Radnor, Brecknock, Montgomery, and Denbigh, were then added.

^d At this time (Anno 1016) the Danes over-run 16 out of the 32 counties in England.

King Alfred, for the more convenient administration of justice, divided each county into hundreds and tithings; the hundreds in the north of England being called Wapentakes, and in Sussex, Rapes. The ridings of Yorkshire comprise many hundreds; the Leathes in Kent are smaller, and comprise three or four hundreds. A hundred has been defined as consisting of ten tithings, and every tithing of ten households; but if so, the number of hundreds must have been in ancient times much greater, or the population very small.

In the time of King Alfred, a deputy or lieutenant was appointed, as guardian of each county; King Henry III. in the latter part of his reign, restored this officer by the name of Captain, to keep the peace with the assistance of the sheriff: it is probable that he was also called *Comes*. The office became hereditary in many noble families, who had by Royal Grant, as a kind of salary attached to it, the *third penny* of the county over which they presided. *Comes* is by some supposed to be derived from *Comitatus*, by others *Comitatus* from *Comes*: this is the origin of the third rank among our nobility, that of earls. It is certain that the sheriff, who was the deputy of this principal officer, was invariably styled *Vice-comes*, and was one of the principal gentry in each county; and it was not till the reign of Henry VI. that the title of *Vice-comes* or Viscount, was made a title of honour unconnected with office: it now forms the fourth in rank of the nobility, being next to that of earl.

It may not be amiss to speak here very briefly of the other degrees. The highest rank, that of duke, was not granted to any subject in England before the reign of King Edward III. Robert Vere, Duke of Ireland, being the first person, unconnected with the blood royal, who had that honour conferred on him: he was at the same time (1385) created Marquis of Dublin, being the first instance of the introduction of that title, now the second in rank in our peerage.

The first mention of the title of baron amongst us, is as early as the reign of Canute, when the word seems to have been used synonymously with Thane; though it seems the general opinion of antiquaries, that the Thane and Vavasor, orders, long since extinct, were of a rank inferior to barons: it is certain that under the first Norman kings, barons were such persons as were possessed of an entire barony, that is thirteen knights-fees and one third, being lands of the yearly value of 400 marks. These claimed a right of being summoned to parliament. K. Henry III. first made a selection of the barons, who in his time were become very numerous, and admitted those only to parliament whom he summoned to it by writ. K. Richard II. first made it a title of honour, and created barons by patent:
the

the first so created was John Lord Beauchamp of Holt, made Baron Kidernminster in 1387.

The division of districts into parishes was an ecclesiastical institution, which arose from the Pope's assigning particular churches to each priest; and first took place in England about the year 636, by order of Honorius, Archbishop of Canterbury.

The whole of England, as far as relates to its ecclesiastical jurisdiction, is divided into two provinces, and 25 dioceses. The provinces or archbishoprics are Canterbury and York. The Archbishop of Canterbury is primate and metropolitan of all England; he has a diocese of his own, consisting of part of Kent, and several parishes in other counties, which are in his immediate jurisdiction: the bishops subject to him are 21 in number;

Rochester, <i>whose diocese comprises</i>	Part of Kent.
London, - - - -	Essex, Middlesex, and Part of Hertfordshire.
Chichester, - - - -	Suffex.
Winchester, - - - -	Hampshire (including the Isle of Wight,) Surrey, and the Islands of Guernsey and Jersey.
Salisbury, - - - -	Wiltshire, and Berkshire.
Exeter, - - - -	Devonshire, and Cornwall.
Bath and Wells, - - - -	Somersetshire.
Worcester, - - - -	Worcestershire, and Part of Warwickshire.
Hereford, - - - -	Herefordshire, and Part of Shropshire.
Litchfield and Coventry, - - - -	Staffordshire, Derbyshire, Part of Warwickshire, and Part of Shropshire.
Lincoln, - - - -	Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Huntingdonshire, Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, and Part of Hertfordshire.
Ely, - - - -	Cambridgeshire (including the Isle of Ely.)
Norwich, - - - -	Norfolk, and Suffolk.
Oxford, - - - -	Oxfordshire.
Peterborough, - - - -	Northamptonshire, and Rutlandshire.
Gloucester, - - - -	Gloucestershire (excepting a few Parishes.)
Bristol, - - - -	The city of Bristol, Dorsetshire, and a few Parishes in Gloucestershire.
St. Davids - - - -	Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, Brecknockshire, the greater Part of Radnorshire, and some Parishes in Monmouthshire, Herefordshire, Montgomeryshire, and Glamorganshire.

Llandaff, <i>whose diocese comprises</i>	The greater Part of Monmouthshire and Glamorganshire.
Bangor, - - - -	Carnarvonshire (excepting three Parishes,) Anglesea, and Part of Denbighshire, Merionethshire, and Montgomeryshire.
St. Asaph, - - - -	Flintshire, Part of Denbighshire, Montgomeryshire, and Merionethshire, and a small Part of Shropshire.

The fees continue as they were some time before the conquest; excepting that Bristol, Gloucester, and Oxford, were created Bishoprics by King Henry VIII. before whose time Dorsetshire was in the diocese of Salisbury, Gloucestershire in the diocese of Worcester, and Oxfordshire in the diocese of Lincoln.

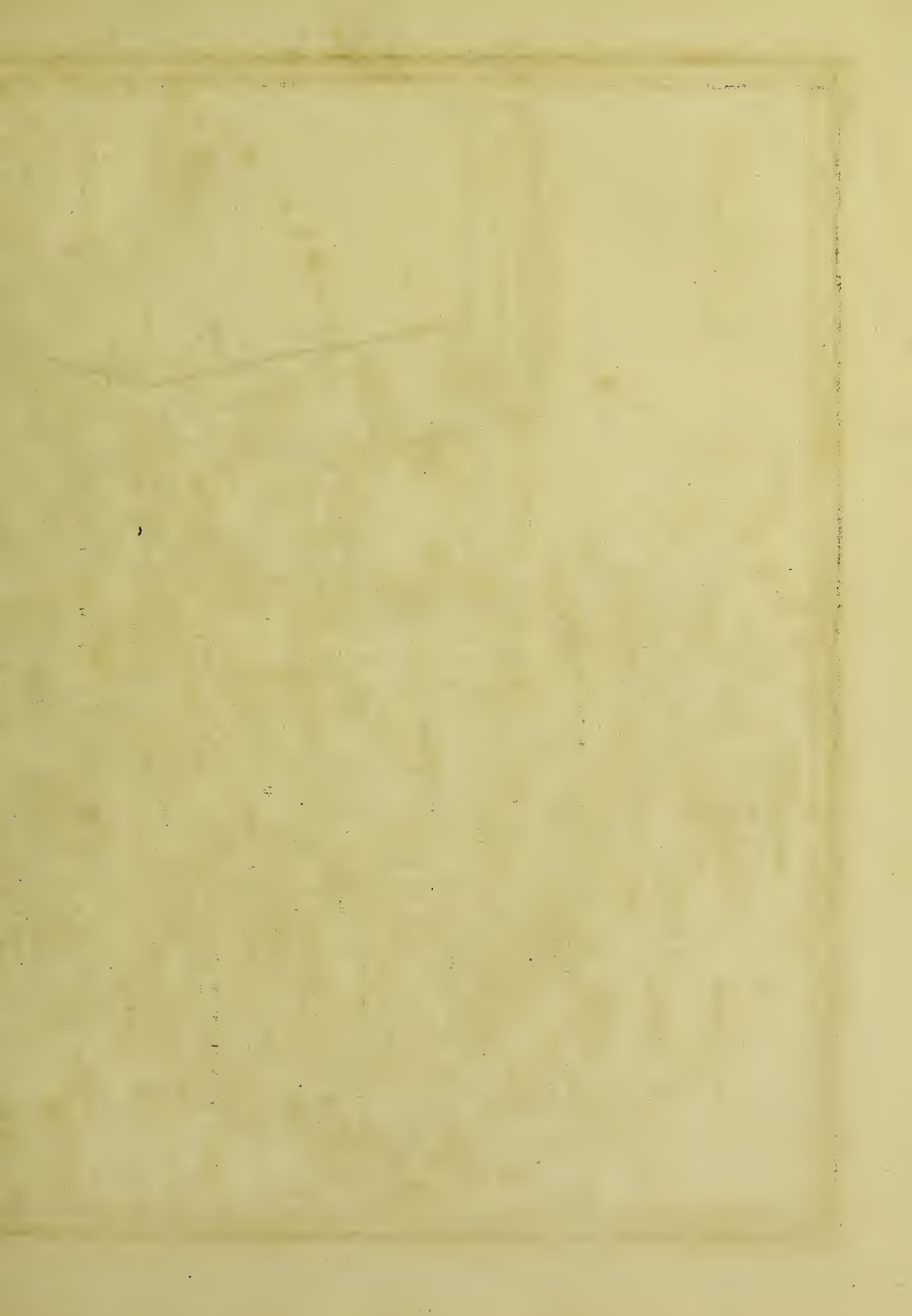
The archbishop of York has within his immediate jurisdiction the counties of York and Nottingham; and has subject to him three bishoprics, viz.

Carlisle, <i>whose diocese comprises</i>	The greater part of Westmorland and Cumberland.
Chester, - - - -	Cheeshire, Lancashire, and part of Westmorland, Cumberland, and Yorkshire.
Durham, - - - -	Durham, and Northumberland.

Chester was created a bishopric by K. Henry VIII. and was anciently part of the diocese of Litchfield. Each bishopric, unless of very small jurisdiction, is divided into two or more archdeaconries, and into several smaller districts called deaneries, each containing an indefinite number of parishes. The total number of parish churches in England, according to the list made out by Cardinal Wolsey in 1520, was 9407; the Catalogue presented to King James, as mentioned by Camden, makes them only 9284; Camden accounts for the difference by the supposition that some churches had in the interval been destroyed; that parochial chapels were omitted in one list, and in the other, those which were only chapels, accounted parish churches. The number of parishes subjoined by Camden to each county, correspond with the number of parish churches in Wolsey's list. It will not be found exactly to agree with the present number of parishes, which will be ascertained with as much accuracy as possible in each county, in the course of the following work. Some small parishes have long since Camden's time been united, and the churches in some instances taken down; whilst other large ones have been divided, and new parishes created by act of parliament. It is sometimes difficult to determine which chapelries are, and which are not, parochial.

The extent of South Britain has been so differently stated that some writers on that subject have supposed its area to contain no more than twenty-eight millions of acres, whilst others have estimated it at forty-seven millions; no one appears to have written so satisfactorily on this head as the present Professor of Modern History at Oxford^a, who says that the true number is between thirty-eight and thirty-nine millions; the Professor observes, that "Our present maps differ indeed considerably from one another, according as they have been more or less corrected, by adopting modern astronomical observations; but none of the older maps, which are of any credit, give more than forty millions, and some of the *modern* ones scarcely give thirty-eight millions of acres. It is true that the exact number cannot be ascertained with mathematical precision, till the present very excellent trigonometrical survey has been completed; but since that survey has already corrected more than one-third of the whole outline, and verified the breadth of the southern part of England, since in the latitude, and consequently in the distance from north to south, there cannot be any error worth noticing; and since many other points, which are material to this inquiry, have already been satisfactorily determined by good astronomical observations, the possibility of error is, in fact, reduced within very narrow limits, and there is no chance that the number of statute acres in South Britain can greatly exceed thirty-eight millions five hundred thousand. Scotland, with its adjacent islands, contains about twenty-one millions."

^a In his Observations on the Income-Tax, published in 1800.







BEDFORDSHIRE.

30. The Roman or Ancient British and Roman Roads are distinguished by blue lines.



Scale of Feet 32 Furlongs

Min. of Long. West 10 of Greenwich Observatory.

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BEDFORDSHIRE.

INTRODUCTION.

Ancient Inhabitants and Government.

THIS County, when the Romans invaded Britain, was inhabited by a people called the *Cassii*, or *Catieuchlani*. During the government of the Romans, it formed part of *Britannia Superior*, afterwards of *Britannia Prima*; and upon the last Roman division of the island, it was included in the district of *Flavia*. After the establishment of the Saxon Heptarchy, it became part of the kingdom of Mercia. When two kingdoms of the Heptarchy were abolished, as related by Bromton, the kings of Mercia retained one moiety of Bedfordshire; the kings of Essex became possessed of the other^a. After the whole of England was united into one monarchy, this county was comprised within the district which was called *Denelege*, or the Danish Jurisdiction.

Historical Events.

THE first historical event which we find relating to this county, is the battle fought at Bedford between Cutha, or Cuthwulf, brother of Ceauline, king of the West-Saxons, and the British army, in the year 571, or as some say 580. The Saxons proved successful; and the consequence of the defeat to the Britons was the loss of four of their principal towns, Lygeanburgh, Eglesburgh, Bennington, and Egenesham^b. The first has, by some antiquaries, been supposed to be Loughborough in Leicestershire; by others, with more probability, Leighton in Bedfordshire; that town and Eglesburgh (which all agree to have been Aylesbury) lying in a direct line under the Chiltern to Bennington and Ensham. One of the most ancient British roads is supposed to have passed under the Chiltern. No particular mention of this county appears in history after this period till the reign of Edward the Elder (son to king Alfred) when it became frequently the scene of ac-

^a Decem Scrip. i. 800, 801.

^b Sax. Chron. p. 22.

tion in the wars between that victorious monarch and the Danes. About the year 907, according to Bromton, or as the Saxon Chronicle, with greater appearance of accuracy, informs us, in 919^c, this monarch came to Bedford, staid there four weeks, received the submission of all the neighbouring country, and built a fortress on the South side of the river. In 921, the Danes, coming from Huntingdonshire into Bedfordshire, fortified Tempsford (now Tempsford) and stationed themselves there. In an excursion from thence they attacked Bedford, but the men of that town made a sally, and put them to flight with great slaughter^d. The same summer King Edward, collecting a great force, besieged the Danes at Tempsford, took that city, as it is called in the Saxon Chronicle, destroyed their fortress, and put their king to death, together with a great number of his nobles^e. In 1009, the Danes made an excursion through a part of this county by the Chiltern to Oxford^f. In 1010, the Danish army burnt Bedford and Tempsford^g. The next year this county submitted to the dominion of King Ethelred^h.

Bedford castle, built by the Beauchamps on the site, it is probable, of King Edward's fortress, was esteemed a garrison of such importance, that, as Camden observes, there was scarcely a storm of civil fury, whilst it stood, that did not burst on it. It was held by the Beauchamps against Stephen, and taken by him in 1138ⁱ. The same family held this castle against King John, who sent his favourite, Fulk de Brent, to besiege it; and when he had taken it, gave it to him as a reward for his good services^k. This same Fulk having committed a most violent outrage on Henry Braybrooke, one of the King's justices itinerant, whom he imprisoned in open defiance of the law in his castle at Bedford, King Henry III. went in person with his nobles to besiege it. After a siege of two months, it was taken by storm, and the King caused it to be dismantled^l. It is probable that all the baronial castles in this county, of any consequence, excepting Bedford, had been before demolished when King John in his march to the northward burnt and destroyed, as Matthew Paris informs us^m, all the castles which lay in his route; and this perhaps is the reason why we read of no remarkable occurrences in this county during the wars between the houses of York and Lancaster.

During the war between Charles the First and his Parliament, Bedfordshire was one of the first counties that associated against the King, being within that district known by the name of the Eastern associatesⁿ. A special licence for this association passed the House Nov. 30th, 1642. The Earl of Manchester was commander in chief of the Eastern associates: Cromwell commanded the horse under him^o. Lord Clarendon observes, that Bedfordshire was one of the counties

^c Sax. Chron. p. 106.

^d Ibid. p. 107.

^e Ibid. p. 108.

^f Ibid. p. 139.

^g Ibid. p. 140.

^h Ibid.

ⁱ Hist. Angl. Scrip. ii. p. 153.

^k Dugdale's Baronage.

^l Chron. Dunst.

^m P. 230.

ⁿ Heath's Chronicle, p. 59.

^o Lord Clarendon's History of the Rebellion.

in which the King had not any visible party, nor one fixed quarter. The same author informs us, that in October 1643, the King sent Prince Rupert with a strong party of horse and foot into Bedfordshire: that he took the town of Bedford, which was occupied as a strong quarter by the enemy, and that this expedition was principally designed to countenance Sir Lewis Dyve, whilst he fortified Newport-Pagnell, at which place he hoped to fix a garrison. Heath says, that it was Sir Lewis Dyve himself who had the command of this expedition; and that, being sent into Bedfordshire with 2000 or 3000 horse, he came first to Amptill, then to Bedford, which town he entered, and took Sir John Norris, and other parliamentary officers, prisoners. From thence he went to Sir Samuel Luke's house^p, and served *that* as Sir Lewis Dyve himself was served in the same county^q by the sequestrators. Soon after this, Col. Montague, with some of the parliamentary troops, entered Bedford by a feint, under a pretence of their being the Royal army, under Sir Lewis Dyve, and took away some money and horses intended for the King's use^r. None of the subsequent transactions of the war appear to have been in any way connected with this county.

Ancient and modern Division of BEDFORDSHIRE.

WHEN the Norman survey was taken, this county was divided into nine hundreds and three half hundreds. The town of Bedford was assessed as half a hundred. Leighton-Bufard, Luton, Houghton-Regis, and the adjoining manor of Sewell, seem to have been assessed separately. The hundreds were as follows:

Mansheve,	-	-	now	Manshead;	Bereford,	-	-	now	Barford;
Flitham,	-	-	—	Flit;	Bicheleswade,	-	—	Biggleswade;	
Wilga,	-	-	—	Willey;	Clifton, or Clifton,	-	—	Clifton;	
Wichestanstou,	-	-	—	Wixamtree;	Radburnestoc, or Radborgestoch,	-	—	Redbornstoke.	
Stodene,	-	-	—	Stodden;					

The half hundred of Boachelai, or Buchelai, contained the manors of Biddenhams, Bletfoe, Bromham, Stagfden, and Steventon, now included in the hundred of Willey, and Renhold and Goldington, now in the hundred of Barford.

The half hundred of Stanburge, or Stanbridge, comprised the manors of Eaton-Bray, Toternhoe, Tilsworth, Studham, and the Bedfordshire part of Edlesborough, which are all now in the hundred of Manshead.

The half hundred of Weneflai contained only the three manors of Hatley, Potton, and Sandy, now in the Hundred of Biggleswade.

The following is a list of the manors noticed in the survey of Domesday, with their modern names, as far as they could be ascertained.

^p Either Hawnes, or Woodend, near Bedford.

^q At Bromham, then the seat of the Dyve's.

^r Pamphlet in the British Museum.

Aieworde, or Aisse- worde - - }	Eyworth	Eitone - - - }	Eaton-Bray, and Eaton-Socon
Acheleia - - -	Oakley	Elneftou - - -	Elftow
Alricefeia - - -	Arlesey	Elvendone - - -	
Ammetelle - - -	Amphill	Efeltone and Effelton	Shelton
Aspleia - - -	Aspley	Eftodham - - -	Studham
Badlefdone - - -	Battlefden	Eftone - - -	
Bedeford - - -	Bedford	Eitwiche - - -	Aftwick
Bereford - - -	Barford	Eurefhot - - -	Everfholt
Berton - - -	Barton	Fernadis - - -	Farndifh
Bichelfwade - - -	Bigglefwade	Falmerfhame, or Flam- merfhame - - - }	Felmerfhame
Bideham - - -	Biddenham	Flicteham - - -	Flitton
Biffoppecote - - -	Bifcot, in Luton	Flictewicke - - -	Flitwick
Biftone - - -	Beefton, in Sandy	Giveldone - - -	Yieldon
Blechefhou - - -	Bletfoe	Gledlai - - -	Gledley
Blunham - - -	Blunham	Goldentone - - -	Goldington
Boleheftre, or Bulehef- tre - - - }	Bolnhurft	Hagenes - - -	Hawnes, or Haynes
Bruneham - - -	Bromham	Hanefelde - - -	
Cadendone - - -	Caddington	Haneflau - - -	Henlow
Caiffot, or Chaifot - - -	Keyfoe	Harewelle - - -	Harold
Cameftone, or Cham- belton - - - }	Campton	Hatlei - - -	Cockayne-Hatley
Carlentone - - -	Cardington	Henewich - - -	Hinwick, in Puddington
Celgrave - - -	Chalgrave	Herghetone - - -	Harrowden, in Cardington
Chainhall - - -	Renhold	Herlingdon - - -	Harlington
Chainhou - - -	Cainhoe, in Clophill	Hockleia - - -	Hockliffe
Chalveftorne - - -	Chalvefton, in Roxton	Holewelle - - -	Holwell
Chenotinga - - -	Knotting	Holme - - -	Holme, in Bigglefwade
Chernetone - - -		Houftone - - - }	Houghton-Conqueft, and Houghton-Regis
Chichefana - - -	Chickfand	Lalega - - -	
Cliftone - - -	Clifton	Langford - - -	Langford
Clopeham - - -	Clapham	Lefstone - - -	Leighton-Bufard
Clopelle - - -	Clophill	Litingletone - - -	Litlington
Cochepol, or Choche- pol - - -	Cople	Loitone - - -	Luton
Colmeworde - - -	Colmworth	Malperteffelle - - -	Mepperfhall
Cranfelle - - -	Cranfield	Melceburne - - -	Melchbourn
Cravenheft - - - }	Gravenhurft, (upper and lower)	Meldone - - -	Maulden
Crawelai - - -	Hufborn-Crawley	Melebroc - - -	Milbrook
Cudeffane - - -		Melehou - - -	Milnho, in Dunton
Daintone, or Domtone	Dunton	Mereftone - - -	Marfton-Morteyne
Dena - - -	Dean	Middletone, or Mil- denton - - - }	Milton-Bryant, and Milton-Erneft
Dodingtone - - -	Toddington	Newentone - - -	
Echam - - -	Higham-Gobion	Northgivil - - -	Northhill
Edworde - - -	Edworth	Otone - - -	Wotton

Pabencham	-	-	Pavingham	Stanedone	-	-	Stondon
Pechesdone	-	-		Stanewiga	-	-	
Pileworde	-	-	Tilsworth	Stanford	-	-	Stanford, in Southill
Podintone	-	-	Puddington	Stepigelai	-	-	Stepingley
Polocheffelle	-	-	Pulloxhill	Stiventone	-	-	Steventon
Potesgrave	-	-	Potesgrave	Stotfalt	-	-	Stotfold
Potone	-	-	Potton	Stradli, or Straillei	-	-	Stretley
Prestley	-	-	Prestley, in Flitwick	Stratone	-	-	Stratton in Biggleswade
Putenhou	-	-	Puttenhoe, in Goldington	Sudgivele	-	-	Southill
Radwelle	-	-	Radwell, in Felmersham	Sudtone, or Suttone	-	-	Sutton
Rifeden	-	-	Probably Ravensden	Tamiseford	-	-	Tempsford
Riflai	-	-	Rifeley	Tilebroc	-	-	Tilbrook
Rochedone, or Rocheftone	-	-	Roxton	Tingrei	-	-	Tingrith
Salchou	-	-		Torvei	-	-	Turvey
Saleford	-	-	Salford	Totenhoe	-	-	Toternhoe
Sandeia	-	-	Sandy	Wadelle, or Wadhulle	-	-	Odell
Segenhou	-	-	Segenhoe, in Ridgmont	Wardone	-	-	Warden
Segresdon	-	-		Welitone	-	-	Willington
Sernebroc	-	-	Sharnbrook	Westcote	-	-	
Sethlingdone	-	-	Shitlington	Wiledene	-	-	Wilden
Sewelle	-	-	Sewell, in Houghton Regis	Wimentone	-	-	Wimington
Sewileffou	-	-	Silfoe, in Flitton	Wineflameftede	-	-	Wilhamfted
Sonedone	-	-	Sundon	Woburne	-	-	Woburn
Stachedene	-	-	Stagsden	Wyboldestone	-	-	Wybofton, in Biggleswade.

The parishes of Dunstable, Hulcot, Kempston, Pertenhall, Ridgmont, Souldrop, Little Staughton, Thurleigh, Westoning, Whipsnade, Wrestlingworth, and several considerable hamlets and manors, are not mentioned in the survey.

Ecclesiastical Division of BEDFORDSHIRE.

THIS County, which lies within the diocese of Lincoln, is under the jurisdiction of an Archdeacon, and is divided into six Deaneries, viz. Bedford, Clopham, Dunstable, Eaton, Fleete, and Shefford. Wolfey's list, quoted by Camden, makes the number of parishes 116; the present number is 121. Several of the benefices are consolidated, as Aspley-Guise, with Husbourn-Crawley; Aftwick with Arlesey; Barford with Roxton; Battlesden with Potesgrave; Carlton with Chillington; Chalgrave with Hockliffe; Felmersham with Pavingham; Hulcot with Salford; Knotting with Souldrop; and Southill with Old-Warden. The parishes, nevertheless, remain distinct: some of the consolidations are of recent date*. Shefford is a chapel of ease to Campton; Silfoe to Flitton. Billington, Egginton, Heath and Reach, and Stanbridge, are all chapels to Leighton-Bufard. Of the

* See the dates under the respective parishes.

121 parishes, 63 are vicarages : the great tithes of these, with very few exceptions, were appropriated formerly to religious houses, and are now in lay hands.

Monasteries and Hospitals.

THE Benedictine Nuns had an Abbey at Elstow ; the Cistercian Monks, Abbeys at Warden and Woburn ; the Austin Canons, Priories at Dunstable, Bissemede, or Bushmead, Caldwell and Newenham ; the Austin Nuns a Priory at Harold ; the Gilbertines a Priory at Chicksand ; the Grey Friars a house at Bedford ; the Black Friars at Dunstable ; the Knights Hospitallers a preceptory at Melchbourn. At Grovebury, in the parish of Leighton-Bufard, was an alien Priory, subject to the Abbey of Fontevralt in Normandy ; at Milbrook and Clophill were cells to the Benedictine Abbey of St. Alban's. At Ruxox in Flitwick, a cell to the Priory of Dunstable, and at Leighton-Bufard a cell to Woburn-Abbey. These cells seem to have been all removed at an early period. At Northill was a college of Priests. There were ancient hospitals at Dunstable, Farleigh, Hockliffe, and Toddington, and two at Bedford, dedicated to St. John and St. Leonard.

Market and Borough Towns.

THIS county sends two members to parliament. Bedford, the county-town, which is the only parliamentary borough, sends also two members. Dunstable, which was made a royal borough by Henry I., never sent representatives to parliament. Browne Willis, in his *Notitia Parliamentaria*, states the number of market-towns to be ten ; the editors of the *Magna Britannia*, and most modern writers, mention the same number. In the last edition of Camden, they are said to be eleven, which was correct at the time of that publication, the markets at Shefford and Toddington having been since discontinued. The market-house at Toddington was pulled down in 1799 : a century ago this town had one of the most considerable markets in the county. The present number of market-towns is nine, Ampthill, Bedford, Biggleswade, Dunstable, Harold, Leighton-Bufard, Luton, Potton, and Woburn. Harold, which has been omitted by most writers who have enumerated the Bedfordshire towns, still keeps up the name of a market on Tuesdays, though it is attended only by one or two butchers, who open shambles on that day. Bedford, Biggleswade, and Luton, are the principal markets for corn. Potton has declined within these few years. Leighton is noted for its abundant supply of suckling calves. Arlesey, Apley Guise, Blunham, Silsoe in the parish of Flitton, Marston-Morteyne, Melchbourn, Odell, Sundon, Warden and Westoning, had formerly markets, as appears by their respective charters among the records in the Tower. They have all been long since discontinued, not one of them being enumerated in Leland's list. Arlesey is mentioned as a market town in the survey of Doomſday.

Population.

Population.

IN the year 1377, the number of persons in this county who were charged to a poll-tax, from which the clergy, children, and paupers, were exempted, amounted to 20,239. This poll-tax took place not long after a very fatal pestilence.

The number of inhabited houses in this county in 1801, according to the returns made to Parliament, pursuant to the act for ascertaining the population of the kingdom, was 11,888; of uninhabited houses 185; the number of inhabitants 63,393. Of these 30,523 were males; 32,870 females.

The following account of the number of houses, families, and persons in each parish, is taken from the above-mentioned return, and arranged alphabetically:

	Inhabited Houses.	Uninhabited Houses.	Families.	Persons.
Ampthill	237	3	266	1234
Arlesey	69	1	79	404
Aspley Guise	100	3	114	679
Astwick	12	0	16	81
Great Barford	83	4	83	431
Little Barford	18	0	18	80
Barton	71	5	88	448
Battlefen	21	0	28	133
Bedford, St. Paul's	444	9	554	2150
----- St. Cuthbert's	82	4	107	351
----- St. Peter's	87	4	98	577
----- St. John's	54	0	62	254
----- St. Mary's	116	0	154	616
Biddenham	57	1	61	252
Biggleswade	298	3	241	1650
----- Holme } in the Parish of {	11	2	12	80
----- Stratton } Biggleswade {	8	0	9	64
Bletfoe	56	1	70	321
Blunham	73	0	83	376
----- Muggerhanger, in the Parish of Blunham	43	0	76	345
Bolnhurst	35	0	42	225
Bromham	43	0	58	297
Caddington	54	0	67	319
----- Market Street (partly in Caddington, and partly in Studham)	28	1	43	235
Campton	45	1	47	316
----- Shefford Township, in the Parish of Campton	90	0	107	474
Cardington	92	0	100	509
----- Cotton-End } in the Parish of {	43	0	48	190
----- Harrowden and Fenlake } Cardington {	51	0	59	314
Carlton	87	6	89	376

Chalgrave

BEDFORDSHIRE.

	Inhabited Houses.	Uninhabited Houses.	Families.	Persons.
Chalgrave	73	1	114	534
Chickland (Extra-parochial)	6	0	6	42
Chillington	24	1	26	112
Clapham	30	0	36	157
Clifton	62	1	75	329
Clophill	142	1	148	706
Colmworth	56	0	63	347
Cople	41	0	53	403
Cranfield	202	3	241	961
Dean	82	0	84	385
Dunstable	243	2	296	1296
Dunton	61	0	61	336
Eaton Bray	104	0	122	583
Eaton Socon	332	12	461	1625
Edworth	16	1	16	90
Elftow	96	2	116	475
Eversholt	143	3	160	715
Everton (Bedfordshire part of)	26	0	31	141
Eyworth	13	1	19	86
Farndish	11	1	14	68
Felmersham	40	0	48	201
Radwell (in Felmersham)	23	2	30	128
Flitton	49	0	61	292
Silfoe (in Flitton)	73	0	95	447
Flitwick	80	1	101	436
Goldington	60	1	74	339
Upper Gravenhurst	31	2	44	201
Lower Gravenhurst	9	1	9	48
Harlington	63	2	70	344
Harold	155	0	166	763
Hatley Cockayne	18	1	20	102
Hawnes	82	0	121	588
Henlow	99	1	114	552
Higham Gobion	15	1	17	91
Hockliffe	52	1	53	256
Holwell	20	0	20	113
Houghton Conquest	100	5	120	507
Houghton Regis	139	1	165	784
Hulcot	10	0	10	65
Husbourn Crawley	101	5	125	543
Kempston	180	2	206	1035
Keyfoe	158	0	175	370
Knotting	22	0	22	105
Langford	73	3	98	458
				Leighton

BEDFORDSHIRE.

9

			Inhabited Houses.	Uninhabited Houses.	Families.	Persons.
Leighton Bufard	-	-	376	11	392	1963
Billington	} in the Parish of Leighton {	-	39	1	48	200
Egginton		-	44	0	46	206
Heath and Reach		-	111	0	111	541
Stanbridge		-	57	0	*	262
Litlington	-	-	106	4	145	559
Luton	-	-	612	0	656	3095
Marston Morteyne	-	-	130	3	161	709
Maulden	-	-	125	0	173	738
Melchbourn	-	-	40	0	40	229
Meppershall	-	-	51	4	56	309
Milbrook	-	-	67	0	71	327
Milton Bryant	-	-	64	1	76	333
Milton Ernest	-	-	59	6	69	300
Northill	-	-	122	0	149	715
Oakley	-	-	68	0	72	265
Odell	-	-	63	0	69	361
Pavingham	-	-	57	1	86	447
Pertenhall	-	-	38	0	44	190
Potesgrave	-	-	29	0	35	157
Potton	-	-	239	2	255	1103
Puddington	-	-	70	0	92	415
Pulloxhill	-	-	52	4	92	317
Ravensden	-	-	33	0	46	218
Renhold	-	-	34	0	54	245
Ridgmont	-	-	113	2	132	581
Rifely	-	-	108	1	128	576
Roxton	-	-	66	1	80	465
Salford	-	-	46	1	46	210
Sandy	-	-	108	1	119	615
Beefston	} in the Parish of Sandy {	-	28	0	35	180
Girtford		-	54	0	86	320
Sharnbrook	-	-	101	0	122	585
Shelton	-	-	18	1	19	100
Shitlington	-	-	80	1	85	420
Souldrop	-	-	30	0	47	188
Southill	-	-	107	3	129	621
Broom	} in the Parish of Southill {	-	30	0	36	187
Stanford		-	36	0	38	177
Stagfden	-	-	84	0	114	492
Little Staughton	-	-	54	0	58	272
Stepingley	-	-	46	1	46	264

* No return of families.

				Inhabited Houses.	Uninhabited Houses.	Families.	Persons.
Stevington	-	-	-	78	0	99	415
Stondon	-	-	-	5	0	5	29
Stotfold	-	-	-	92	1	101	495
Stretly	-	-	-	42	4	46	209
Studham	-	-	-	22	0	22	99
Sundon	-	-	-	61	1	61	315
Sutton	-	-	-	68	0	71	301
Tempsford	-	-	-	78	2	91	409
Thurleigh	-	-	-	69	1	91	411
Tilbrook	-	-	-	40	2	49	219
Tilsworth	-	-	-	38	2	36	195
Tingrith	-	-	-	23	0	26	116
Toddington	-	-	-	360	5	360	1143
Toternhoe	-	-	-	65	0	65	332
Turvey	-	-	-	151	0	168	758
Warden	-	-	-	63	0	92	455
Weston-ing	-	-	-	76	1	89	410
Whipsnade	-	-	-	28	0	30	140
Wilden	-	-	-	53	0	70	300
Wilhamsted	-	-	-	84	1	90	477
Willington	-	-	-	36	0	44	229
Wimington	-	-	-	36	0	39	226
Woburn	-	-	-	277	6	336	1563
Wotton	-	-	-	139	1	148	732
Wretlingworth	-	-	-	56	3	74	330
Yielden	-	-	-	41	1	45	209

Principal Land-owners at various Periods, and principal extinct Families.

AT the time of the Norman survey, the principal land-owners of this county were Hugh de Beauchamp, who possessed no less than 20 manors; Nigel de Albini (ancestor of the Mowbrays), who had 12 manors¹; William Spech, or Espec, and Walter Giffard, who had 6 manors each; Walter Flandrensis (ancestor of the barons Wahul), who had 5 manors; and Judith, Countess of Northumberland, who had 7. Ten manors belonged to religious houses. The Beauchamps had the chief seat of their Barony at Bedford: a younger branch of the family had a castle at Eaton Socon. Their large property was divided among female heirs. The greater part of their lands in this county fell to the share of the Mowbrays. The principal part of Nigel de Albini's estates in Bedfordshire went to a younger son, who had a castle at Cainhoe, in the parish of Clophill, and passed by a female heir

¹ Dugdale enumerates 23; it appears that he had that number of estates, but eleven of them are not described as manors.

to the St. Amands, who were considerable land-owners in this county in the 13th and 14th centuries. The Wahuls, or Wodhuls, descended from Walter Flandrensis, were barons, and continued in the male line till about the year 1550. Agnes, only child of the last male heir, married Richard Chetwode esq. and died in 1575. The chief seat of the Wahuls was at Wodhul, or Odell Castle, which passed, with other estates, to the Chetwodes. The Wahuls had seats also at Shortgrave and Segenhoe. Segenhoe castle is mentioned in the chronicle of Dunstable priory under the year 1276. It seems to have been afterwards the seat of lord Grey of Ridgmont.

Among the earliest extinct families which are known, by records subsequent to the Norman survey, to have possessed property in this county, may be reckoned the Barons Trally, Patshull, and Cantilupe, the families of Hoo, Firmband, Pabenhams, Pavely and Morteyne. The Trallys were not summoned to parliament after the reign of king John, but the family was not extinct till about the year 1350. Their chief seat was at Yilden, anciently called Giveldune. The Patshulls, who had their seat at Bletfoe, were extinct in the male line about the year 1368; their Bedfordshire estates passed by a coheir to the family of Beauchamp, and from them to the St. Johns, who had before inherited considerable estates by a female heir from the Pavelys. The Cantilupes became extinct in the year 1272, when their estates in this county devolved by a coheir to the Zouches, and passed from them by purchase, about the year 1480, to the Brays, an ancient family, who gave name to the village of Eaton-Bray. They were ennobled in the 21st year of king Henry VIIIth's reign; and became extinct in the principal branch by the death of John lord Bray, without issue, in 1557.

The noble family of Grey of Ruthin, was settled at Wrest in this county before the year 1324. Their estates are now possessed by their representative Lady Lucas, grand-daughter of Henry the last earl of Kent, who in 1710 was advanced to a dukedom, and died without leaving any male issue.

The Hoos, though not mentioned in the record of Doomfday, are said to have been settled at Luton-Hoo before the conquest^a. Sir Thomas Hoo was created lord Hoo and Hastings in 1447, and dying without issue male, his Bedfordshire estate went to his eldest daughter, who married sir Geoffrey Boleyn. Paulinus Peyvre, a man who from a mean origin was raised to the high station of Steward of the household to Henry III., having amassed great wealth, became the founder of a family, who had their chief seat at Toddington, and possessed considerable estates in the county, which, after a succession of several generations, passed, by an heir fe-

^a See Chauncy's history of Hertfordshire, p. 510.

male, to the Broughtons. The Gostwicks became possessed of a large landed property in this county, about the end of the 15th and the beginning of the 16th centuries, principally by purchase from the Mowbrays. Their seat was at Willington. William Gostwick, of that place, was created a baronet in 1612. The title and family are extinct. Most of their estates were purchased by Sarah duchess of Marlborough, and are now, by subsequent purchases, in the Bedford family. The Charnocks, who settled in this county about the year 1500, had their chief seat at Huncote. St. John Charnock esq. was created a baronet in 1661. The male line of this family became extinct by the death of Sir Villiers Charnock, the last baronet, in 1779, when the estates passed to the family of Hervey of Chilton in Buckinghamshire, as heirs in the female line. The Cockaynes, who gave name to the village of Cockayne-Hatley, were descended from chief baron Cockayne, who purchased an estate there, and died in 1427. This family has not long been extinct. They are represented in the female line by the Custs. The Conquests, who gave name to Houghton-Conquest, were settled in that village as early as the 13th century. The family became extinct by the death of Benedict Conquest esq. father of lady Arundel of Wardour.

Fuller, who wrote in the reign of Charles II., after giving, from an ancient record, a catalogue of the principal gentry of Bedfordshire in the time of Henry VI., says, "Hungry Time has made a glutton's meal on this catalogue of gentry, and hath left but a little morsel, for manners, remaining; so few of these are found extant in this shire, and fewer continuing in genteel equipage; among whom I must not forget the family of the Blundells, whereof sir Edward Blundell behaved himself right valiantly in the unfortunate expedition to the isle of Rœ^x." The only family in this catalogue that is not now extinct, is that of Mordaunt, since ennobled, and no longer connected with the county. The Blundells, the Haseldens of Goldington, and the Conquests, have become extinct since Fuller's time. The Wingates of Harlington are extinct also in the male line, being represented by the family of Jennings.

A few families which settled in the county at a later period have also become extinct. The Fitzjefferys of Creakers in Barford, were settled there not long after the reign of Henry VI., and became extinct in the 17th century. The Astreys came into Bedfordshire in the early part of the 16th century. The late Dr. Astrey was the last heir male of this family, whose estates have passed, by inheritance in the female line, to the Penystons of Cornwell in Oxfordshire. The Bechers, who were of Howbury in Renhold, as early as the reign of Henry VIII., have not long

^x The expedition to the isle of Rhé, under the duke of Buckingham.

been extinct. They possessed considerable estates in that neighbourhood, which were sold about the year 1780. The Gerys, who settled at Bushmead priory soon after the dissolution of Monasteries, became extinct in the male line by the death of the late William Gery esq. in 1802. The Rev. Hugh Wade, who married one of his daughters and co-heirs, and some years ago took the name of Gery at the request of his father-in-law, in addition to his own, resides at Bushmead. The Caters, who had a seat at Kempston, and possessed considerable estates there for nearly two centuries, have not long been extinct. Their estates have since been sold. The Bromfalls of Blunham, who had large estates in that, and some of the neighbouring parishes, during the 17th century, are supposed to be extinct. Some of their estates were sold in the reign of queen Anne.

Nobility of the County, and Places which have given Titles to any Ranks or Branches of the Peerage.

BEDFORD, the county-town, has given title to several noble families. Ingram de Coucy, constable of France, and earl of Soissons, was created earl of Bedford by Edward III. in 1365. John Plantagenet, third son of Henry IV., was created duke of Bedford, and was afterwards Regent of France. George Plantagenet, youngest son of king Edward IV., who died in his infancy, had the title of duke of Bedford. George Neville was created duke of Bedford in 1470, and degraded in 1478. Jasper Tudor, (uncle of Henry VII.) was created duke of Bedford in 1485; the title became again extinct at his death. The lady Mary, daughter to Henry VIII., (afterwards queen of England,) was created countess of Bedford by her father, in 1537^y. In 1549 the earldom was revived in the person of John lord Russell, whose descendant was, in 1694, advanced to the dukedom. In this family the title still continues. Cranfield, a village on the borders of Buckinghamshire, gives the title of baron to the duke of Dorset, whose ancestor Charles Sackville, was in 1675 created baron Cranfield, and earl of Middlesex. When Henry earl of Kent was in 1706 advanced to the rank of a marquis, he was at the same time created earl of Harold in Bedfordshire, which title was borne by his only son, who died in his father's life-time. Milbrook near Ampthill gave the title of baron in 1442 to sir John Cornwall, who was also lord Fanhope, by which title he was generally known. William Clayton esq. being possessed of the manor of Sundon, in this county, was in 1735 created an Irish peer by the title of lord Sundon, which became extinct at his death. These are the only places in the county which have given titles to any orders of the peerage.

^y See Gough's Camden.

The following peers, upon their summons or creation, were described as of places in this county. Lord Beauchamp of Bletfoe; lord Grey of Ridgmont; lord Bray of Eaton-Bray; and lord Cheney of Toddington, all extinct; lord Mordaunt of Turvey (now earl of Peterborough); lord St. John of Bletfoe; Visc. Bruce of Amptill (now earl of Aylesbury); lord Bathurst of Battleſden; lord Carteret of Hawnes; and lord Byng of Southill (now Visc. Torrington). When lord Ongley was created an Irish peer he was described as of Old-Warden, which, by a fiction in uſe upon ſuch occaſions, is ſaid to be in the kingdom of Ireland. The earls of Peterborough and Aylesbury, lord Bathurst and lord Torrington are not now connected with this county.

Noblemen's Seats.

FULLER tells us, that in his time Toddington, Amptill (by which he means Houghton Park, the ſeat of the earls of Aylesbury, partly in Amptill pariſh), and Woburn, carried away the credit among the houſes of the nobility. Toddington houſe, which after the Cheneyſ, became a ſeat of the noble family of Wentworth, has been nearly pulled down. Houghton Park is in ruins. Woburn, with increaſed magnificence, is ſtill the chief ſeat of the noble family of Ruſſell, who firſt ſettled in this county in the reign of Henry VIII. That monarch granted to their anceſtor John lord Ruſſell the ſcite of Woburn abbey, and ſeveral manors which had belonged to the abbot and convent. Their eſtates have been from time to time augmented by various purchaſes, particularly by the grandfather of the preſent duke; and now form what may be conſidered as by far the largeſt landed property in the county. The duke of Bedford has a pretty villa at Oakley, which was his chief reſidence before he ſucceeded to the title. The marquis of Bute, the earl of Upper-Oſſory, lady Lucas, lord St. John, lord Carteret, and lord Ongley, have ſeats in this county. The earl of Aſhburnham has no ſeat at Clapham, as erroneouſly ſtated in ſome of the Peerages, and other works. He inherited the manor in conſequence of his anceſtor's marriage with the heirels of Mr. Taylor of that place; but the manor-houſe is an inconfiderable building, and has long been occupied as a farm. Lord Hampden has a ſmall villa at Bromham, on the banks of the Oufe, which he ſeldom viſits. It was a favourite reſidence of the late lord.

The Marquis of Bute's father, the late Earl, purchaſed Luton-Hoo in 1763, and began a magnificent manſion which is not yet completed. The Earl of Oſſory's family ſettled in this county in 1736, when Amptill park was purchaſed by his grandmother, Lady Gowran. Lady Lucas, as before mentioned, inherits Wreſt Park, as repreſentative of the ancient and noble family of Grey, who were ſettled there before the year 1324. The St. Johns became poſſeſſed of conſiderable

able estates in Bedfordshire in the 14th century, by marriages with the Pavelys and Patshulls. They were ennobled in 1559. Bletfoe, then the family seat, is now a farm house. Melchbourn, their present residence, came into the family by purchase; exactly at what time cannot be learned. It had been in the Ruffell family, by grant from the crown, after the dissolution of Monasteries. Lord Carteret's ancestors settled in this county by the purchase of Hawnes Park, in the year 1667. Lord Hampden inherits Bromham from Lord Trevor, who purchased that and other estates about a century ago. Lord Ongley inherits his seat at Warden from Sir Samuel Ongley, an opulent merchant, who purchased it about 1690. His father changed his name from Henley.

Earl Spencer, although he has no residence in this county, has considerable estates, the greater part of which have been in his family for nearly two centuries. Others were purchased by the Duchess of Marlborough, and by her bequeathed to his grandfather, the Honourable John Spencer.

Baronets extinct and existing.

THE extinct baronets of this county are, Napier of Luton-Hoo, created in 1612, and extinct in 1747; Gostwick of Willington, created in 1612, extinct about 20 years ago; Winch of Hawnes, created in 1660; Charnock of Hulcot, created in 1661, extinct in 1779; Anderson of Eyworth, created in 1664, and extinct in 1773; Sabine of Eyne, or Ion, created in 1671; and Cornish of Sharnbrook, created in 1765, and extinct in 1770.

The present baronets who have seats in the county are Sir Montague Burgoyne of Sutton; Sir Philip Monnoux of Sandy; Sir George Osborn of Chickland; and Sir Hugh Inglis of Milton-Bryant.

The Burgoynes are one of the most ancient families in this county, where they appear to have been settled as early as the latter end of the 15th century. Sir Montague Burgoyne's ancestor was created a baronet in 1641. The Monnouxes were originally a Worcestershire family. Humphrey Monnoux, grandfather of Humphrey, who was created a baronet in 1660, was the first who settled in Bedfordshire, at Wotton, the ancient family seat, now occupied by a tenant. Sandy, their present residence, appears to have been a subsequent purchase. The Osborns were an Essex family. Sir John Osborn, treasurer's remembrancer of the Exchequer, settled at Chickland about the year 1600; his grandson, Sir John Osborn knt. was created a baronet in 1661. Sir Hugh Inglis, who married the heir of the Johnsons of Milton-Bryant, was created a baronet in 1801.

The ancestor of the Langleys of Sheriffs-Hutton Park, in Yorkshire, advanced to the degree of baronet in 1641, was then of Higham-Gobion, in Bedfordshire, which
not

not long afterwards passed out of the family. The present baronet, of the Alston family, which was raised to that degree in 1641, resides wholly in Cambridgeshire: he has no male issue, nor is there any presumptive heir to the title. Odell castle, and the Bedfordshire estates of this family are, by settlement or bequest, the property of Thomas Alston esq. Lord Torrington's ancestor, when he was created a baronet, was described as of Southill, now the seat of Mr. Whitbread. Lord viscount Newhaven having some property, though no residence at Marlton-Morteyne, in this county, was, when created a baronet in 1763, (by the name of Sir William Mayne) described as of that place.

Sir Gregory Page Turner bart. of Ambrosden, in Oxfordshire, has a seat in this county at Battlefen, by inheritance from the Pages. The late Sir Gillias Payne bart. had a seat at Tempsford, which he purchased in 1772, now the property of his grandson, a minor.

Principal Gentry, and their Seats.

THE most distinguished seats of the gentry are, Odell Castle, Mr. Alston's; Southill, the seat of Samuel Whitbread esq. M. P.; and Colworth house, the seat of William Lee Antonie esq. M. P.; besides which may be enumerated:

Arlsey, - -	} the seat of	Edwards	Houghton Regis,	} the seat of	Henry Brandreth, esq.
Blunham, - -		Mrs. Campbell	Howberry,		J. Polhill, esq.
Bushmead, - -		Rev. H. W. Gery	Ickwell-bury, -		John Harvey, esq.
Egginton, -		Fr. Moore, esq.	Ickwell, - -		C. Fyshe Palmer, esq.
Fenlake Barns,		A villa of Mr. Whit-	Kempston, -		Robert Dennis, esq.
		bread,	Leighton Bufard,		Hon. Mrs. Leigh, in
Flitwick, - -		Geo. Brooks, esq. in			the occupation of
		the occupation of			Mr. Dickinson.
		the Rt. Hon. John	Muggerhanger, -		Godfrey Thornton, esq.
		Trevor	Ridgmont, - -		Dr. Macqueen
Harold, - -	} the seat of	Robert Garstin, esq.	Stockwood, -	} the seat of	John Crawley, esq.
Henlow, - -		George Edwards, esq.	Tingrith, - -		C. D. Willaume, esq.
Hinwick, -		Richard Orlebar, esq.	Turvey, - - -		John Higgins, esq.
Hockliffe, - -		Richard Gilpin, esq.	Turvey Abbey, -		John Higgins, jun. esq.

The Whitbreads are said, by family tradition, as appears by an inscription on the monument of the present Mr. Whitbread's grandfather in Cardington church, to have been of great antiquity in this county; but their name does not occur in the list of gentry of the reign of Henry VI.; nor is there any pedigree of the family in the Heralds' visitations. It is certain, nevertheless, that Ion house in Gravenhurst, which, in the inscription above alluded to, is said to have been the ancient seat of the family, was sold by William Whitbread gent. in 1639, as appears by
the

the title-deeds of the present possessor*. The Crawleys were settled in the parish of Luton soon after the year 1600, if not before. The Brandreths were settled at Houghton-Regis before the year 1672. The Edwards's have been settled at Arlesey, and the Harveys, at Ickwell-bury, more than a century. The Wilaumes of Tingrith settled there in 1710.

Non-resident Families.

A FEW families, which are no longer resident, still retain their ancestors' estates in this county, as the Leighs, the Franklins, and Sadleirs. The Leighs of Stoneleigh have held the manor of Leighton-Bufard, under the church of Windsor, above 200 years; and some of the family formerly resided in the manor-house. The Franklins were of Maverns, in Bolnhurst, as early as the year 1600; they afterwards removed to Great Barford: it is a considerable time since they quitted the county. Mr. Franklin, the present representative, possesses the family estates at both places. Mr. Sadleir's collateral ancestor, from whom he inherits the manor of Aspley-Guise, was created a baronet in 1661; and appears to have had a seat in that parish, although in his patent he was described of Temple-Dinesley, in Hertfordshire: several of the family are interred at Aspley.

Geographical and Geological Description of the County.

THE county of Bedford is bounded on the North and North-East by Northamptonshire; on the East by Huntingdonshire, Cambridgeshire, and Hertfordshire; and on the West by Buckinghamshire and part of Northamptonshire.

The author of the General View of the Agriculture of this county, published by the Board of Agriculture, calculates it to be 145 miles in circuit, inclosing an area of 307,200 acres^y: of these he computes 217,200 to be in open or common fields, common meadows, commons and wastes; 68,100 in inclosed meadows, pasture, and arable; and 21,900 of woodland. A great proportion of the woodland has been planted within a few years: the chief planters have been the Duke of Bedford, the Earl of Upper-Osford, Lord Carteret, and Fr. Moore, esq. There are some woods of considerable extent in the neighbourhood of Southill, Warden, Chicksand, and Hawnes. Woburn park is well wooded with oak and other timber trees. In Lord Osford's park at Ampthill, some aged oaks, of a remarkable size, are a great embellishment to the scenery; and, combined with the natural inequality of the ground, render it very picturesque: few situations in the county have a claim to that description. There is some pleasing scenery

* See the account of Gravenhurst.

^y Dr. Beke calculates the number of acres at 293,059. See his Observations on the Income Tax.

about Aspley-Guise, Ridgmont, and Warden. The view from Ridgmont rove Buckinghamshire is very extensive. The view from Milbrook church-yard over the vale of Bedford, that from Toternhoe Castle over a great part of Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire, and the ride along the downs from Stretley to Barton, looking over Wrest park and towards Hertfordshire, claim particular notice.

The scenery of Bedfordshire is considerably enlivened by the steeples of churches, although not so much as in some other counties. Towards the borders of Northamptonshire are several handsome spires; of these Keyfoe and Souldrop are most conspicuous in the scenery. In the Southern parts of the county, the churches of Todding-ton and Shitlington are among the most remarkable, as distant objects. In this part of the county the Buckinghamshire churches of Bow-Brickhill, and Edlesborough are striking objects. The beautiful spire of Hanslope, lately destroyed by lightning, was seen to much advantage from the neighbourhood of Ridgmont.

Fuller, speaking in general terms of the soil of this county, gives a pretty just description of it by saying, that it is a deep clay, with a belt or girdle of sand about, or rather athwart, the body of it, from Woburn to Potton. The author of the agricultural report says, that there is every soil, and every mixture of soil, in this county. He describes the prevailing soil of the North and West parts to be clay and strong loam; that of the South and East parts, light loam; sand, gravel, and chalk. The chalk hills extend across the county from Hertfordshire to Buckinghamshire, including the whole range of Luton and Dunstable downs.

Produce.

THIS county has been long noted for its abundant produce of fine wheat and barley. The vale of Bedford is one of the most extensive corn districts. The cultivation of woad, mentioned by former writers as carried on to a considerable extent in Bedfordshire, has long been wholly laid aside. Three hundred acres were lately let for this purpose at 7*l.* *per* acre at Tyringham and Lathbury, in the neighbouring county of Buckingham; but at the expiration of two years, the term for which this land was taken, the persons concerned in the culture took some land in Northamptonshire, for the same purpose, at a lower rent. In some parts of Bedfordshire, particularly in the parish of Sandy, garden vegetables are raised in considerable quantities for the supply of the neighbouring towns. In the Southern part of the county are many large dairy farms, the produce of which, being chiefly butter, is conveyed in carts to the London markets.

NATURAL HISTORY.

Fossils.

THIS county does not abound in fossils either native or extraneous. It has been said indeed that gold ore was formerly discovered at Pollux-hill, and that an attempt was made to work a mine there : but it is probable that this idea originated in mistake. Woodward mentions “ a mass of yellow shining talc, with a yellow earthy matter mixt with it,” as found at this place : probably a similar substance was mistaken for gold, by persons not skilled in mineralogy.

The greater part of the extraneous fossils which occur in this county, are found in the stratum of lime-stone, which follows the course of the river Ouse. This stratum abounds with the different kinds of shells, and other marine productions, which are commonly found imbedded in the yellow lime-stone. *Cornua Ammonis*, and other kinds of shells, are found in the stratum of stone in the Toternhoe quarries, which lies above that which is used for building ; and great abundance of petrified wood, together with *gryphites*, *belemnites*, &c. under the stratum of fuller’s-earth, at Aspley. Petrified wood has also been found in other parts of this county, where the soil is sandy. The petrifying spring spoken of by Fuller and other writers does not exist.

Woodward mentions *nautili*, and other shells, as found in a chalk-pit at Caddington² ; shark’s teeth, *ammonites*, *belemnites*, &c. in a light coloured clay near Leighton² ; and *echini* in the fields near Eaton-bray^b.

Rare Plants.

THE botanical history of this county has been industriously investigated by the Rev. Dr. Abbot, of Bedford, who has published a very ample Flora of its indigenous plants. Among the most rare are *Lythrum hyssopifolium*, which grows plentifully in the fields between Oakley and Clapham ; *Malaxis paludosa*, which grows in the neighbourhood of Potton ; *Campanula latifolia* and *Eriophoron polystachion*, near Dunstable ; *Geranium Phæum*, near Eversholt ; *Hyoseris minima*, near Aspley and Ampthill ; *Centunculus minimus*, near Ampthill ; *Ornithogalum Pyrenaicum*, near Eaton-Socon ; *Hypochaeris glabra* ; *Salix rubra* ; *Melampyrum cristatum* ; *Alisma ranunculoides* ; *Inula Helenium* ; *Trifolium ochroleucum* ; *Carex strigosa*, and *Phlæum paniculatum*. One should be almost inclined to suppose that the seeds of the *Draba muralis* and *Erodium moschatum*, two Northern plants

² Catalogue, vol. II. p. 93. b. 6. ² Ibid. b. 10, and p. 104. i. 2. ^b Ibid. p. 67, h. 49, and p. 72. h. 162.

found by Dr. Abbot in Bedfordshire since the publication of his Flora, had been introduced into this county by some botanist. Many rare plants have thus become naturalized, at places very remote from that of their original growth. Dr. Abbot found the *Euphorbia Cyparissias*, considered as a doubtful native plant, growing wild in Barton-Leet woods.

Mineral Waters.

SEVERAL springs in this county are known to be impregnated with various minerals, but none of them have acquired much celebrity. The ingenious Dr. Yeats, physician to the Infirmary at Bedford, who has bestowed considerable attention on this subject, has favoured us with a list of the places where mineral springs have been pointed out to him, and the result of his analysis of a few of them. The springs enumerated are at Barton; Bedford (near the Friars); Cupwell at Bletfoe (near the Falcon); Poplar well at Blunham (near Barford bridge); Bromham (near Webb's lane); Bushmead; Clapham; Cranfield; Hulcot; Milton-Ernest; two at Odell; Chadwell at Pertenhall; a well called Ochres at Risely; Silfoe (at a farm called New Inn); Turvey (in Dovehouse Close); and the spring which supplies the cold bath in Wrest-gardens. Dr. Yeats has analysed the water from Clapham, Wrest-gardens, Bromham, Oakley, and Turvey. "The two first evidently contain iron. In the Wrest-garden water, iron appears to be held in solution by the carbonic acid; in the Clapham water, by the vitriolic acid forming the *fer-rum vitriolatum*. They both of them contain also the *sulphat* and *muriat* of lime, as likewise the *sulphat* of magnesia, or Epsom salts. The Bromham water contains no iron, but holds in solution the different salts just mentioned; the *muriat* of lime being in considerable quantity." The spring at Oakley contains the same salts in small quantities, except that it is not ferruginous: it is remarkably clear and transparent. The spring at Turvey contains "a very large proportion of lime, held in solution by a superabundance of carbonic acid." Of the waters which have not been analysed, one of the springs at Odell is known to be mildly cathartic; and Chadwell at Pertenhall, somewhat ferruginous.

Rivers.

THE principal rivers in this county are the Ouse and the Ivel. The circuitous course of the Ouse seems to have been much exaggerated. Fuller says that its course through this county (which is only 18 miles in width) is no less than 80 miles; and the editors of the *Magna Britannia* state it to be 90 miles: but as it is described on Jeffries's map, which was made by a trigonometrical survey, its course does not appear to be more than forty-five miles.

The

The Ouse enters this county, on its course from Buckinghamshire, in the parish of Turvey; from whence it passes between Carlton and Harold; between Odell and Chillington, near Felmersham, Sharnbrook, Bletsoe, Milton-Ernest, and Oakley; between Bromham and Biddenham to Bedford, where it becomes navigable; thence near Goldington, Willington, Barford, Tempsford, Roxton, Little Barford, and Eaton-Socon: between the last mentioned place and St. Neots, it quits the county, and enters Huntingdonshire. The principal bridges over the Ouse are Carlton, Radwell, Stafford bridge near Oakley, Bromham, Bedford, Barford, and Tempsford. Over the last mentioned bridge passes the great road from London to Glasgow.

The fish of the Ouse are pike, perch, bream, chub, bleak, cray-fish, fine eels, dace, roach, and gudgeon. Bleak abound particularly about Bedford bridge. Eels are found in the greatest abundance, and of the largest size, at Stoke mill. The Ouse is esteemed a good river for trolling^v. The average depth of the Ouse is considered to be about 10 feet; at Sharnbrook it is not less than 25 feet, in few places less than 4: there are, notwithstanding, several fords; as at Odell, Pinchmill in the parish of Sharnbrook, Radwell, Oakley, Clapham, Kempston, Tempsford, &c.

The river Ouse is subject at all seasons of the year to sudden inundations, which are not only destructive to the produce of the rich meadows on its banks, but have in some instances been the cause of more extensive calamities, particularly at the town of Bedford in the year 1256, as recorded by Matthew Paris; and in 1570, as related in two pamphlets bearing that date. The effects of a dreadful storm, which happened August 19, 1672, are related also in two pamphlets. The Cambridgeshire proverb of "the bailiff of Bedford is coming," mentioned by Fuller, alludes to the inundations of the Ouse, a most rapacious distrainer of hay and cattle.

The Ivel rises near Baldock in Hertfordshire; and enters Bedfordshire near Stotfold, not far from Arlesey; it is augmented by a small stream called the Hiz: passing near Henlow to Langford, it is there joined by a rivulet, which conveys to it the waters of two smaller streams, which unite near Shefford. One of these streams passes through sir George Osborn's grounds at Chicksand. At Biggleswade, the Ivel becomes navigable, and passes thence near Sandy and Blunham to Tempsford, where it falls into the Ouse. The only considerable bridges over the Ivel are at Girtford (a hamlet of Sandy) and at Biggleswade. The bridge at Girtford was rebuilt with stone from the quarry at Sandy in 1781, that at Biggleswade in 1796, both under the inspection of sir Philip Monnoux. The fish of the Ivel are for the most part the same as those of the Ouse: it is particularly famous for gudgeon. An act of parliament passed in 1757, for making the Ivel and its branches

^v Daniel's Book of Sports.

navigable, from the Ouse at Tempsford to Shotling *alias* Burntmill, in the parish of Hitchin, and Blackhorse mill in the parish of Bygrave, Herts, and to the North and South bridges in Shefford. Under this act the Ivel was in 1758 made navigable to Biggleswade, but the navigation has not as yet been extended any farther.

The river Lea, whose course is principally through Hertfordshire, rises near Houghton-Regis in this county, and runs through the whole extent of Luton parish, feeding a fine piece of water in the marquis of Bute's park.

The river Ouzel rises not far from Whipsnade, and leaving Eaton-Bray on the right, separates this county from Buckinghamshire in its course to Leighton-Bufard.

No navigable canal passes through this county; but the Grand Junction Canal touches on its borders in the neighbourhood of Leighton-Bufard, and comes up to that town. It has been in contemplation to make a canal from Leighton to join the Ouse at Bedford.

Roads.

THE great northern road to Glasgow, &c. enters Bedfordshire about the 41 mile-stone, and passes between Aitwick and Edworth to Biggleswade; thence through the hamlets of Lower Caldecot and Beeston-crofts to Girtford, where it crosses the Ivel, and leaving Blunham on the left, proceeds to Tempsford: here a turnpike road to St. Neots branches off, and goes about two miles through this county, passing through Little Barford. The Glasgow road crosses the Ouse at Tempsford, and leaving Roxton on the left, passes through the hamlet of Wyboston to Eaton Socon, about two miles beyond which it quits the county. -

The great road to Chester and Holyhead enters this county about the thirty-three mile-stone, a mile before you come to Dunstable: from that town, leaving Houghton-Regis on the right, and Tilsforth and Stanbridge on the left, it passes to Hockliffe, commonly called Hockley-in-the-hole: after which leaving Battlefen and Potesgrave on the right, it quits the county about the 42 mile-stone. The great road to Liverpool branches off from the last-mentioned road near Hockliffe, and passing through Woburn quits the county about two miles on the other side of that town, and enters Buckinghamshire.

The road from London to Higham-Ferrars and Kettering enters this county from Hertfordshire about the 36 mile-stone; leaving Holwell and Stondon on the left, it proceeds to Shefford; thence to Bedford, without passing through any village, leaving Southill, Warden, Cardington, and Cople on the right, and Hawnes, Wilhamsted, and Elstow, on the left. From Bedford it passes through Clapham, Milton-Ernest, and Bletfoe; and leaving Sharnbrook, Souldrop, and Wymington

on

on the left, quits the county about 11 miles beyond Bedford, and enters Northamptonshire; its course through this county being about 26 miles.

In 1802, an act passed for making a new turnpike-road from Browne's lane in Great Staughton to the Bedford turnpike road in the parish of Lavendon in Buckinghamshire. A considerable part of this road has been completed: it crosses the last-mentioned road at Stokemill, and is intended to pass through Sharnbrook, Odell, and Harold.

Another road, from London to Bedford, enters the county at the 27 mile-stone from London, and passes through Luton, over Luton downs to Barton-in-the-clay and Silfoe; from thence through Clophill, leaving Hawnes on the right, and through Wilhamsted and Elstow to Bedford.

Besides these principal roads, there is a very good turnpike road from Ampthill to Bedford; a turnpike road from Ampthill to Woburn, and from Bedford to Eaton-Socon, on either side of the Ouse; the two roads joining at Barford bridge. The road from Baldock to Shefford enters this county near Stotfold, and passes through Arlesey, Henlow, and Clifton.

A turnpike road from Bedford to Olney, of late much out of repair, passes over Biddenham bridge through Bromham to Turvey, where it leaves the county.

The old road, which was formerly the route of the judges on their circuit from Bedford to Buckingham, and passed through Stagfield towards Newport-Pagnel, is become by disuse quite impassable for carriages.

A turnpike road from Bedford to Kimbolton was begun some years ago, and nearly completed as far as Bolnhurst, but is still unfinished.

It is remarkable that there is no carriage road from Dunstable to Luton, though both are considerable towns, and the distance only five miles.

The private roads in general are bad, excepting in the immediate vicinity of Bedford. In the neighbourhood of Cardington and Elstow, the public have been much indebted for the improvement of the roads to the exertions of the late Mr. Whitbread.

Manufactures.

THE principal manufacture of this county is thread-lace, formerly known by the name of bone-lace; a term now grown obsolete, but still retained as synonymous in the statute-books. Lace is made in every part of the county, excepting in a few villages, where it has been superseded by the straw manufacture. The texture is not so fine as that of the lace made in some parts of Buckinghamshire, nor are the earnings of the persons employed in it so large; the average day's work of an adult

adult producing about a shilling only; and children earning from two-pence to five-pence. The trade is nevertheless flourishing, and the demand for the manufacture increasing. Lace-making has been generally esteemed particularly prejudicial to health, and persons travelling through the counties where this manufacture prevails, have been struck with the sickly appearance of the women and children employed in it; which, exclusively of the pernicious effects attributed by some to the posture of the manufacturers, might be sufficiently accounted for by the sedentary nature of their employment, and their habit of working together in small crowded rooms.

The straw manufacture prevails, and has of late much increased, in the neighbourhood of Dunstable and Toddington, and on the borders of Hertfordshire. The employment is not necessarily so sedentary as lace-making, for the straw may be platted by persons standing or walking. The earnings, even of those who make the coarse plat, are higher than those of the lace-makers, and the profit of making the fine plat is very considerable.

According to the returns made to parliament, of the population of this county in 1801, the number of persons employed in agriculture was then 18,766; of those employed in trade, manufactures, and handicrafts, 13,816.

ANTIQUITIES.

Roman Remains.

THE Roman antiquities, which have been discovered in this county, are not numerous, or of much importance. They consist chiefly of earthen vessels, fragments of pottery, and coins. Several urns of various forms were dug up about twenty years ago, in the parish of Sandy, at a place called Chesterfield, with many Roman coins, a small mirror of metal, a fibula, and some fragments of the beautiful red pottery, ornamented with figures, commonly supposed to be the ancient Samian ware^c.

An *amphora* was found about the year 1798, in the peat on Maulden Moor, together with several urns of different forms and sizes, containing bones and ashes, and fragments of the red pottery enriched with figures and other ornaments; they lay about three feet below the surface of the moor, which is quite level.

Roman coins have been found also near Dunstable, and at Market-street.

^c Archæolog. vol. VIII. p. 378.

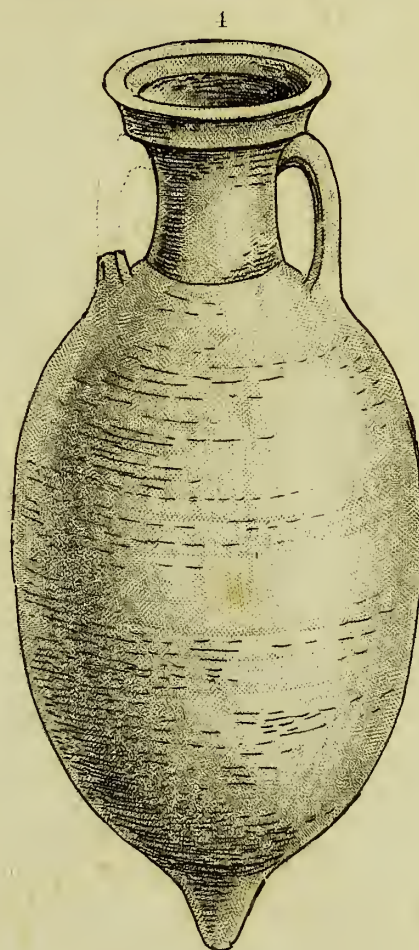
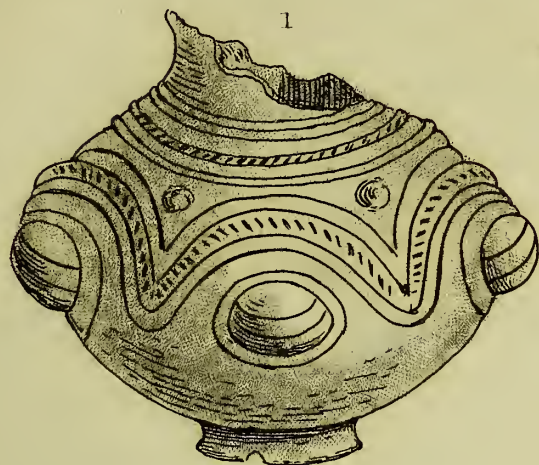


Fig. 1 2.3. ROMAN URNS, found at Sandy Bedfordshire 4 An Amphora found on Wavendon beach, Bucks.

Roman Roads and Stations^d.

“THIS county is crossed by three roads of undoubted antiquity : the Ikening-street, the Watling-street, and a considerable Roman road, which came from Hertfordshire to the station near Sandy, and passed from thence to the Ermin-street, at Godmanchester. The first of these differs in some respects from the others : it is by no means so direct in its line as Roman roads generally are ; it shews no tendency (where it remains in its primitive state) to pass through Roman towns ; nor are such towns found on it at distances suited to travelling ; it does not appear to have been ever raised or paved (the peculiar and infallible mark of the roads constructed by the Romans) ; and in many parts of its progress it divides itself into several branches, but all nearly parallel to its original course. These reasons, added to its name, which is British, give great countenance to the opinion that it was a track-way of the ancient inhabitants, before the conquest of the country by the Romans, in its course from the Iceni (the inhabitants of the eastern counties of England), from whom it took its name. After passing through Cambridgeshire and a part of Hertfordshire, it enters this county on its south-westerly borders, and crosses the turnpike-road from Luton to Bedford, about the 16th mile stone ; here a branch seems to bear to the right, through Great Bramingham and Houghton, to the British town of Maiden Bower ; while the principal road continues on the side of the hills between Great Bramingham and Limberly, over Seagrave marsh, through the present town of Dunstable, where it crosses the Watling-street, and soon after enters Buckinghamshire. In the whole of its passage through this and the neighbouring counties, it continues on the top or sides of the Chalk hills, and is known to every inhabitant by the name of the Ikeneld or Ikening-street.

A second great military way passes through Bedfordshire, under the name of the Watling-street ; this also I have no doubt was another British track-way, traversing the island from the Kentish coast to the country of the Guetheli ; and it is a curious circumstance, that an ancient track-way, under the very same name, tends from the eastern extremity of Scotland to the same country. These Guetheli were the remains of the old Celtic inhabitants of England, who had been driven, by powerful and successive invaders, to the extremity of Wales, and to the opposite shores of Ireland ; and the communication with their country must have been of the utmost

^d We have been favoured with an account of the Roman roads and stations in Bedfordshire, and other counties, by the Lord Bishop of Cloyne ; who has taken great pains in the investigation of this branch of antiquarian science ; and has visited every part of the island for the purpose of local observation. He has been so obliging as to arrange his materials, and draw up a brief statement of the result of his inquiries in each county for the use of this work.

importance in those early times, as providing a passage for cattle and other articles of trade, from the extreme coasts of the west, to the great marts for foreign merchants in the eastern ports of Britain. Thus the Watling-street, (Via Guethelinga, as Richard of Cirencester expressly calls it) would be the road of the Guetheli, as the Ikening-street was the road of the Iceni. Nor let such persons as have not much directed their minds to these studies, be startled at the idea of British ways. As the Britons, even in Cæsar's time, made use of chariots, it is not very probable they could have been without some sort of roads, especially as their country abounded with morasses and forests. Now, as the Romans would of course adopt such parts of these roads as suited their own convenience, and as they carried on a trade of the same nature with this people, they made use of the whole of the road, from the coast of Kent to Wroxeter, with little variation. It is carried through well-known Roman towns at regular distances, bears steadily and directly to its point, and wherever it is deserted by the modern turnpike-road, (as between Weedon, in Northamptonshire, and Wall, in Staffordshire,) shews still a very elevated crest; the original pavement is also found in many places, though sometimes, where it has passed over a mossy soil, such pavement is beneath the present surface; it enters this county at the 33d mile-stone, in its way from St. Albans to Stony Stratford, keeping nearly in the track of the modern Irish road, and is not to be distinguished from it; with this road also it leaves the county a little beyond the 42d mile-stone, having passed through one itinerary station on it, which is generally agreed to have been at Dunstable. Roman coins have been found near this town; its present streets are at right angles with each other, and coincide with the four points of the compass, corroborating proofs of its having been the work of that people. The name of *Forum Dianæ*, given to it by Richard, shews it to have been a considerable mart of trade, for which its situation, at the intersection of the Ikening and Watling-streets, was particularly convenient; and it is indeed not improbable, that the scite was fixed upon by the Romans for their new town on this very account, in preference to that of the neighbouring British town at Maiden Bower.

But, though all our antiquaries (except Mr. Salmon, whose fancies are so extravagant as to make him at all times an incompetent guide) agree in the existence of a station at Dunstable, there is a difference of opinion respecting its name. As long as the world suffered itself to be misled in these pursuits by a fondness for etymology, it left the safe and positive direction of the itineraries, to attend to the ingenious dreams of Baxter, who, finding that *Maes Gwyn* signified a white field, fixed here the station of *Magiovintum*, because it in some degree corresponded with the chalkiness of the soil; but the numbers are all in Antoninus's 2d, 6th, and 8th iters so express, that *Magiovintum* was 24 miles from *Verulam*; and the assertion is so strongly confirmed by the first iter of Richard (in neither of which iters do the numbers

numbers permit us to suppose the station to have been out of the road,) that I subscribe to the opinion of the learned and accurate Horsley, and arrange with him the Roman stations in this part of the Watling-street in the following manner :

Antonine's Names.	Richard's Names.	Modern Names.	Roman Miles.	Modern Miles.
1. Sulloniacæ.	Sulloniagis.	Brockley-hill.	12.	12.
2. Verolamium.	Verolamium Municip.	St. Albans.	9.	9.
3. Durocibrivæ.	Forum Dianæ.	Dunstable.	12.	12.
4. Magiovinum.	Magiovinium.	Fenny Stratford.	12.	12.
5. Laetodorum.	Laetodorum.	Towcester.	17.	17.

After observing this coincidence of numbers in the ancient and modern miles, we must either agree that the town called by Antonine *Durocibrivæ*, and by Richard *Forum Dianæ*, was at Dunstable; or adopt the opinion of Mr. Ward, that *Magiovinum* and *Durocibrivæ* have changed places by the mistake of some transcriber.

The third ancient road that traversed any part of Bedfordshire was the Roman military way, which enters the county near Baldock, in the line of the present north road, with which it continues as far as *Stretton*, between the 44th and 45th mile-stone, where the modern turnpike-road (as is often the case) turns off to the left to pass through Biggleswade, while the Roman road preserves its old straight line directly forward to Chesterfield. The Roman station near the village of Sandy, on the hill above this village, is a large camp called Cæsar's camp (once possibly the British post) but the coins and every species of remains decidedly point out the Roman town in the valley beneath it; and, although the road is not travelled, or the name of the town mentioned in any of the iters, it is universally and justly allowed to be the *Σαλυναι* of Ptolemy, and the *Salinæ* of Ravennas. From the N. E. part of the station, near the banks of the Ivel, this road is continued through a small valley, leaving the British camp before-mentioned on the left hand, and another hill which has been dug up for a stone quarry, on the right, straight to a hedge-row which runs down through a piece of land to a small copse in the bottom, from whence it continues equally straight, first as a boundary between Mr. Pym's land and Sandy-field, and then entering some inclosures, crosses the road from Everton to Tempsford; then passes through a farm yard (leaving the house on the left) belonging to Governor Pownal; and through some more inclosures to a farm house, belonging to General Parker, which stands upon it; then through another inclosure to Tempsford marsh (or as it is called the cow-common); after passing which, it ascends the hill close by a barrow or tumulus, (almost the invariable attendant on Roman roads,) which is planted with trees, and known by the name of the Hen and Chickens; then straight by the side of the hedge-row, leaving Hardwick on the right, and crossing the road from Gamlingay, and that from Cambridge to St. Neot's, proceeds not far from

Toseland, leaving the Offords on one side, and Papworth and Yelling on the other, to the village of Godmanchester, allowed to be a Roman town, and supposed by many antiquaries to be the site of the ancient *Durolipons*.

A very considerable military way has been also observed, coming from the Isle of Ely to Cambridge, and visibly tending to the borders of Bedfordshire in a direct line for Sandy: this road, though in some parts obscure, is supposed, with great probability, to have passed through Hatley and Potton to our post at Chesterfield; and Dr. Mason (our most intelligent tracer of Roman roads) has continued it on the western side of the station, in a line bearing towards Fenny Stratford; the country is so deep that no person, except he is well acquainted with the neighbourhood, and has an eye accustomed to these pursuits, would have any chance of following it with success; but I am clearly of opinion, from the general bearing of this road, where it is still visible, that it formed a part of a great Roman way, leading from the eastern coast of England towards Wales, between the two British ways, the Ikening and Rykning; but of this I mean to speak more at large when I come to treat of the course of the Akeman-street, in the counties of Bucks, Oxford, and Gloucester.

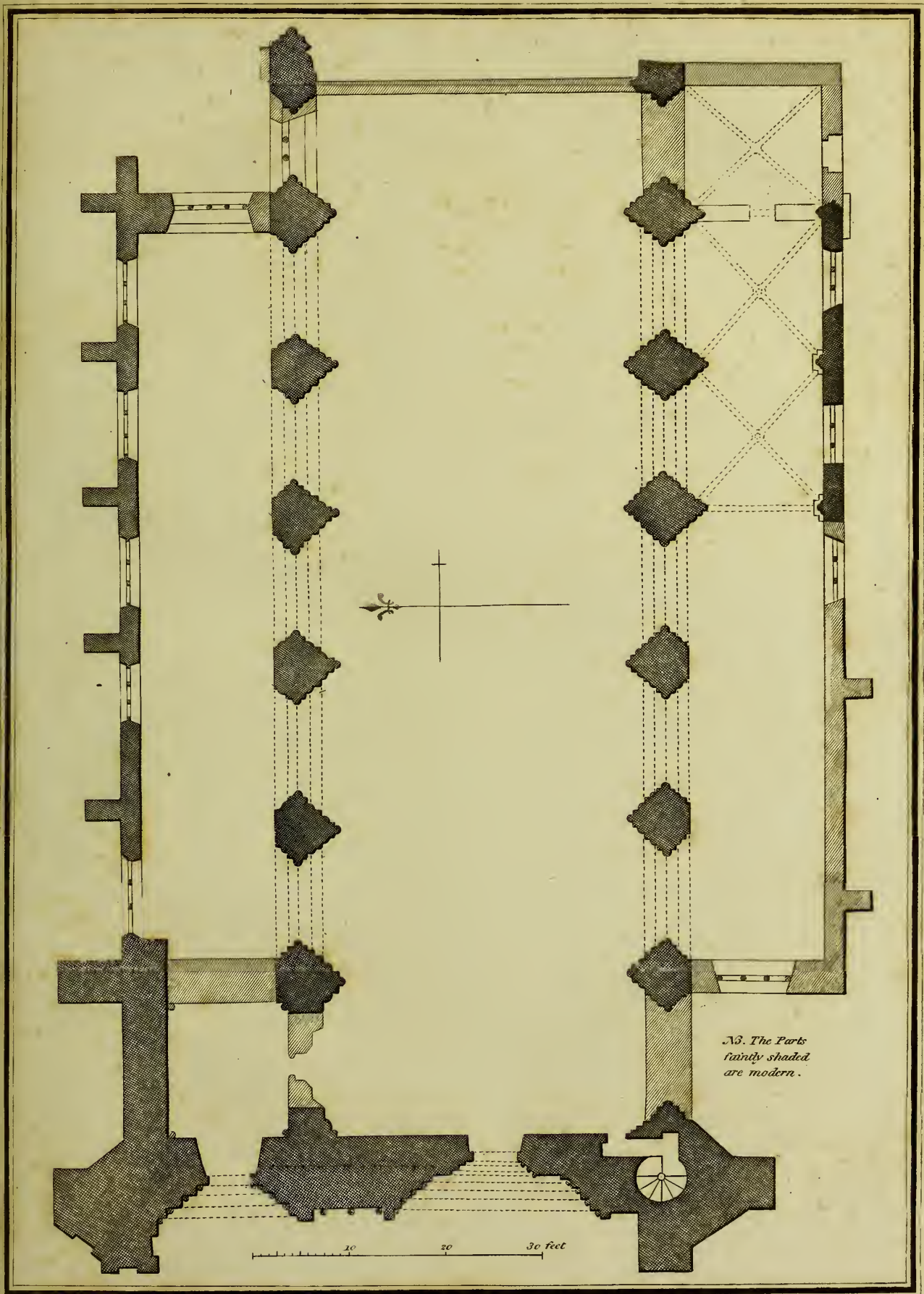
That there were connecting roads between the stations of Chesterfield and Dunstable, Chesterfield and Chesterford in Essex, and Chesterfield and Chester near Wellingborough, in the same manner as between Chesterfield and Godmanchester, there is little reason to doubt; although at present, from the constant cultivation of the whole face of the country, much of which also is old inclosure, and very deep land, the traces of them may be entirely defaced."

Church Architecture.

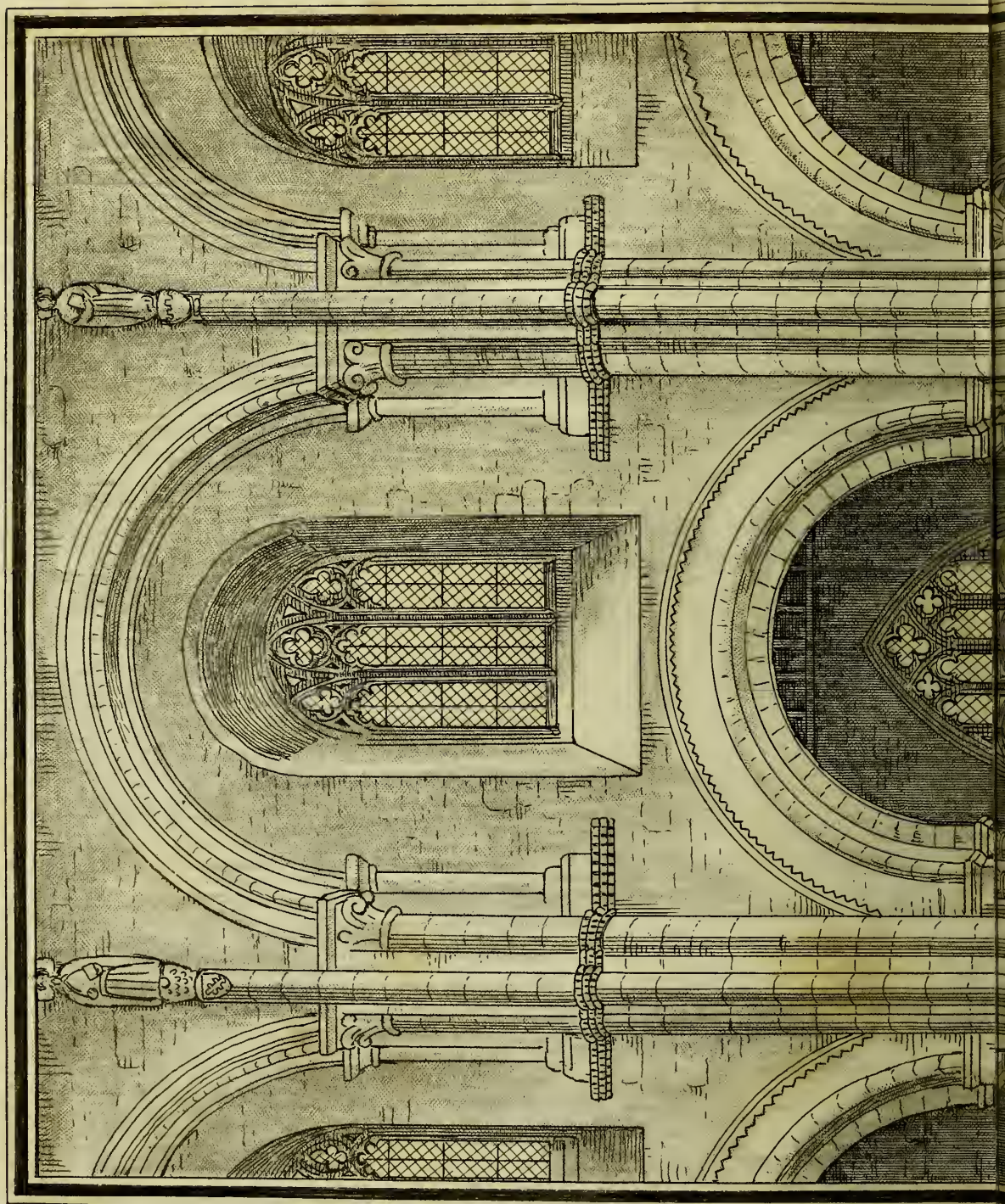
THE most ancient remains of ecclesiastical architecture in Bedfordshire are to be seen in Elstow church; the chancel of which has plain semicircular arches springing from square massive piers, unquestionably part of the original church of the monastery, which was founded in this place soon after the Norman conquest. The north door of this church has a semicircular arch, with zig-zag mouldings.

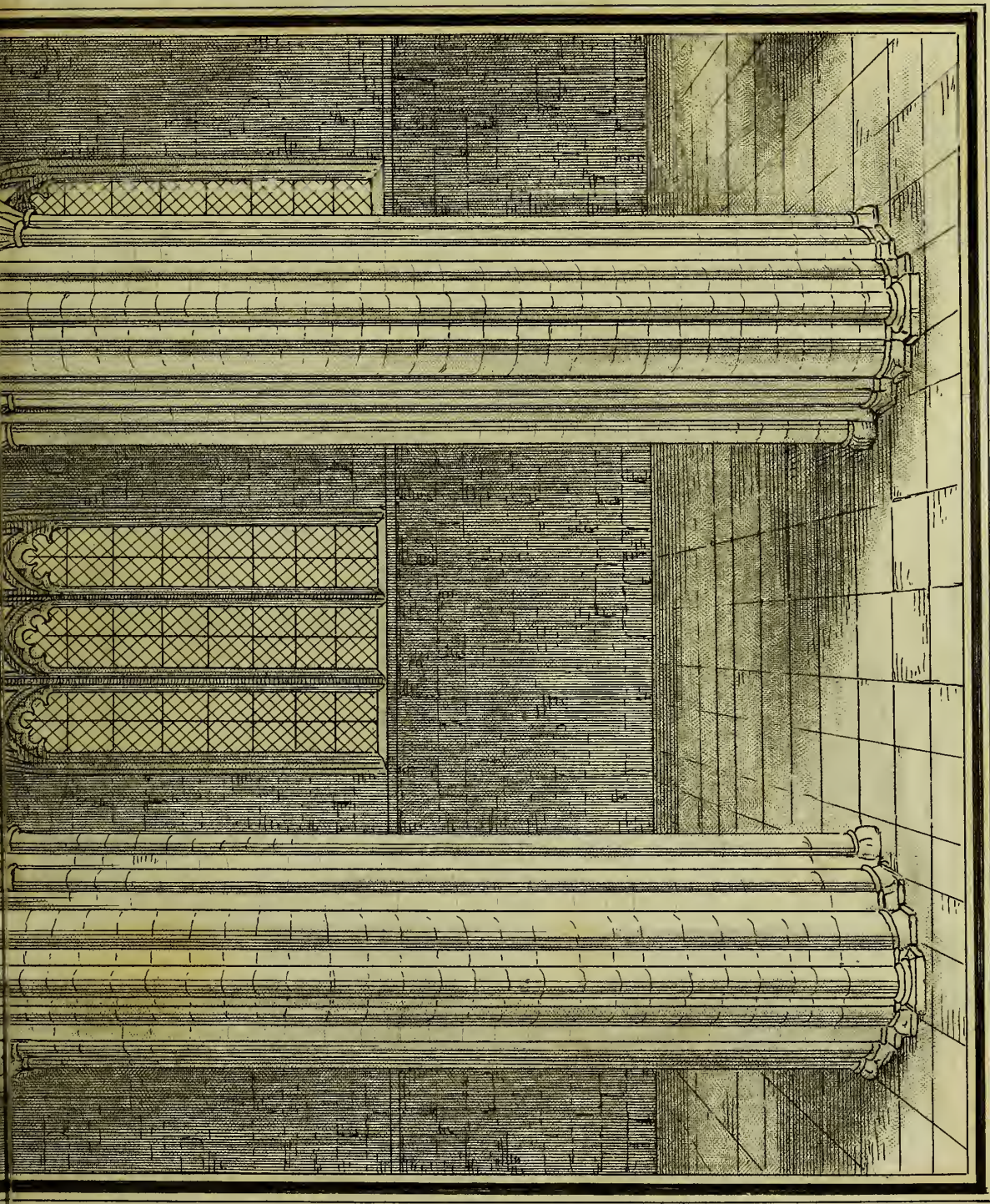
The parish church of Dunstable, which was formerly that of the convent, founded by Henry the First in 1131, exhibits considerable remains of the original structure. The columns are massive and clustered, with semicircular arches, and a single zig-zag moulding: the east end of the south aisle has the original groined roof of stone.

There are no other remains of this early architecture in Bedfordshire of any importance. In Puddington church the arches of the nave are circular, and have zig-zag mouldings. Door-ways with circular arches, having the zig-zag and other
mouldings









W. Jones del. & sc.

PART OF THE NAVE OF DUNSTABLE CHURCH.

mouldings of Saxon architecture, occur in St. Peter's church at Bedford, and in the churches of Little Barford, Caddington, and Thurleigh; over the last of which are rude figures of Adam and Eve in bas relief.

Remains of the earliest style of Gothic architecture are to be seen in the nave of Elstow church, some of the columns of which are large and octangular, with foliage round the capitals; the arches are pointed, and have plain deep mouldings; over the arches are small lancet-shaped windows. The west door has been very elegant; the pillars on each side are slender, having capitals richly ornamented with foliage, now much mutilated.

The west front of Felmersham church affords another example of this style of architecture, exhibiting a variety of pointed arches, slender columns with plain capitals and bases, and long lancet-shaped windows. The other parts of the church are very plain, and appear, by the shape of the windows, to be of the same age.

The west end of Dunstable church exhibits also a rich display of this early Gothic architecture, engrafted upon part of the original fabric, a semicircular arch of which appears in the great western door-way, formerly enriched with a profusion of ornaments, consisting of highly-relieved foliage and figures, executed in Toternhoe stone, the greater part of which has been destroyed or mutilated. Over this door are three tiers of pointed arches; the central one forms a gallery, leading to the tower. On the inside of the church this style of architecture is seen only in a stone gallery leading to the tower, formerly open, but now hid by the organ-loft; it has lofty pointed arches, separated by clustered pillars with capitals of foliage. The windows of this church are of a much later date.

Studham church, which was dedicated in 1220 (5th of Hen. 3.) retains its original architecture in the pillars of the nave, which are octagonal, with capitals variously ornamented.

The church of Eaton-Bray is nearly of the same age, and has both clustered and octagonal columns, the capitals of which are richly adorned with foliage.

Of the succeeding style of Gothic architecture, which prevailed during the fourteenth century, few examples exist in this county: Wymington church, however, though small, is an elegant specimen of it, and appears never to have been altered. This edifice was rebuilt by John Curteys, mayor of the staple at Calais, who died in 1391, and Albrena his wife. It has two octangular turrets at the east, and a very elegant spire at the west end, ornamented with crockets, rising from an embattled tower, which has tracery of quatrefoils, and other ornaments. The upper parts of the windows of this church are ramified in various forms; a striking characteristic of the style of architecture which prevailed during the period above mentioned.

Several

Several of the Bedfordshire churches are in the latter style of Gothic architecture, which prevailed during the fifteenth and the beginning of the sixteenth century. Northill is large and handsome, having clustered columns and pointed arches: it was made collegiate in 1405, and probably erected at that time. Willington church is a handsome building in the same style. Marston church is a light uniform structure, with side-aisles separated from the nave by clustered columns. Eaton-Socon church is in the same style; the nave is eighty feet long and fifty-six wide. The windows of the nave were formerly richly ornamented with stained glass. The greater part of the church of Leighton-Bufard, which is a large handsome building, with side-aisles and transepts, having a lofty plain spire in the centre, is in this latter style of Gothic architecture; as are also the churches of Odell, Biggleswade, and St. Paul's at Bedford.

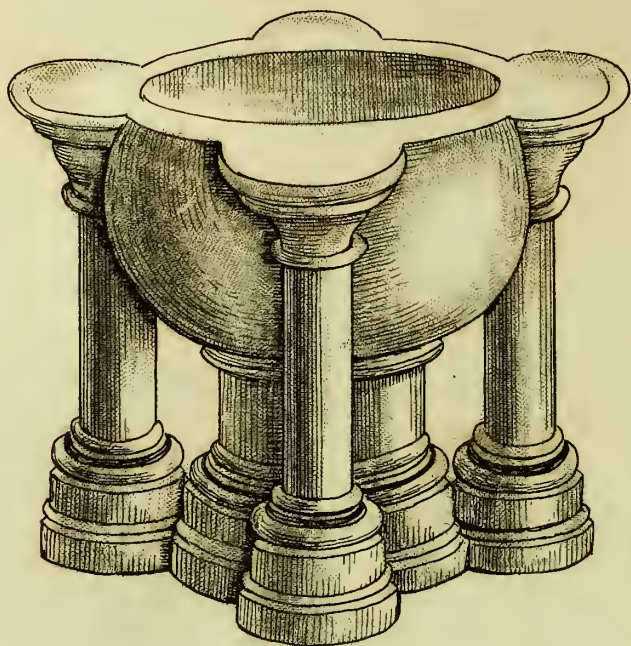
The south end of the Wenlock chapel in Luton church, erected in the reign of Edward the IVth, has a lofty double arch opening to the chancel, resting on clustered pillars, and enriched with Gothic tracery; as is also the whole of that end of the chapel.

Stained Glass.

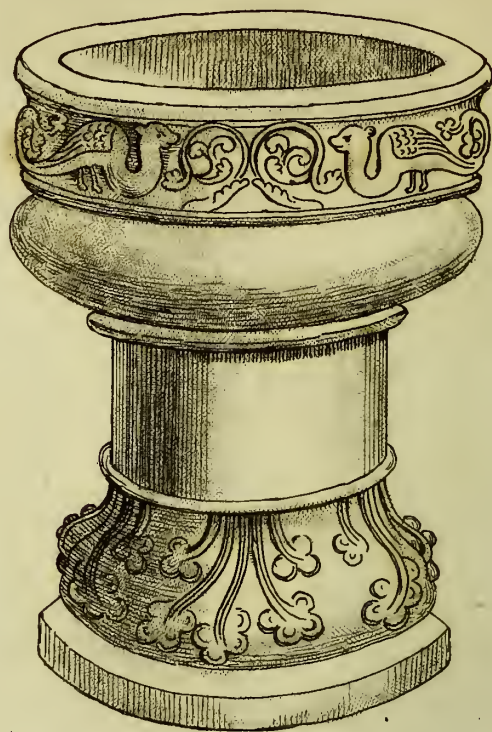
THE remains of ancient stained glass in the windows of Bedfordshire churches are very few, and, for the most part, in a mutilated state. The most perfect are to be seen in Eaton-Socon church, all the windows of which appear to have been originally filled with these splendid ornaments: only a few fragments remain in the windows on the south side of the church, which appear to have been decorated with designs taken from the New Testament; but in the range of windows along the north aisle, a considerable number are preserved, the most entire of which represent designs taken from the legends of St. Nicholas and St. Etheldreda. These remains have little to recommend them, except the brilliancy of their colours: by the form of some of the dresses, they seem to have been executed during the reign of Edward the IVth.

From some fragments in the south transept of Luton church, that building also appears to have been richly ornamented with stained glass. In the windows of the Wenlock chapel in the same church, erected in the reign of Edward the IVth, there are sufficient remains to shew the style of the original decorations, which were not of the richest kind, but consisted of single figures and coats of arms on a ground of plain glass, charged with various small devices, among which the broom-pod and a rudder, accompanied with the word *Hola*, are the most conspicuous. The figure of St. George on foot, and the arms of John Lord Wenlock the founder, within the garter, are still to be seen; but the portrait of this Lord, with a rhyming inscription under it, formerly in the east window, has been long since destroyed or removed.

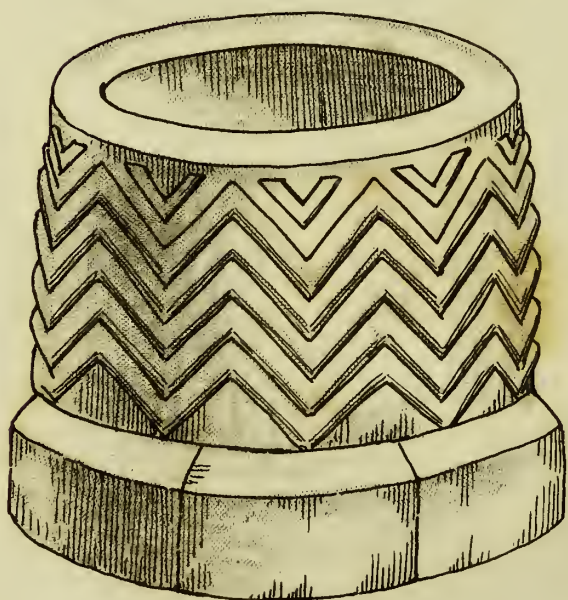




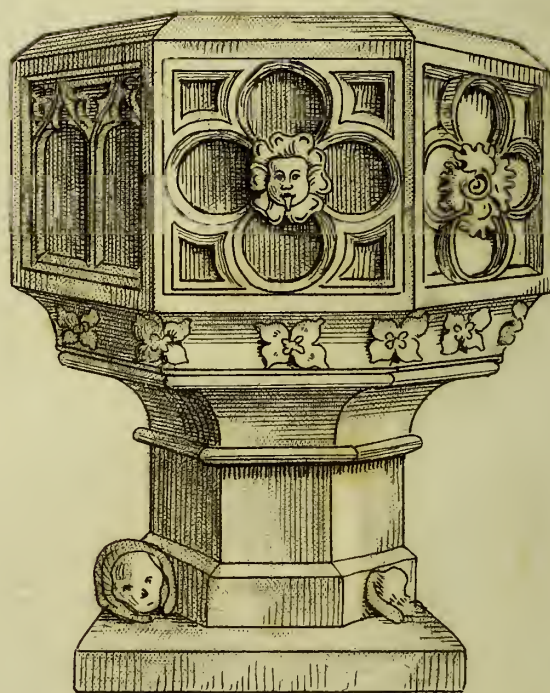
Leighton-Busard.



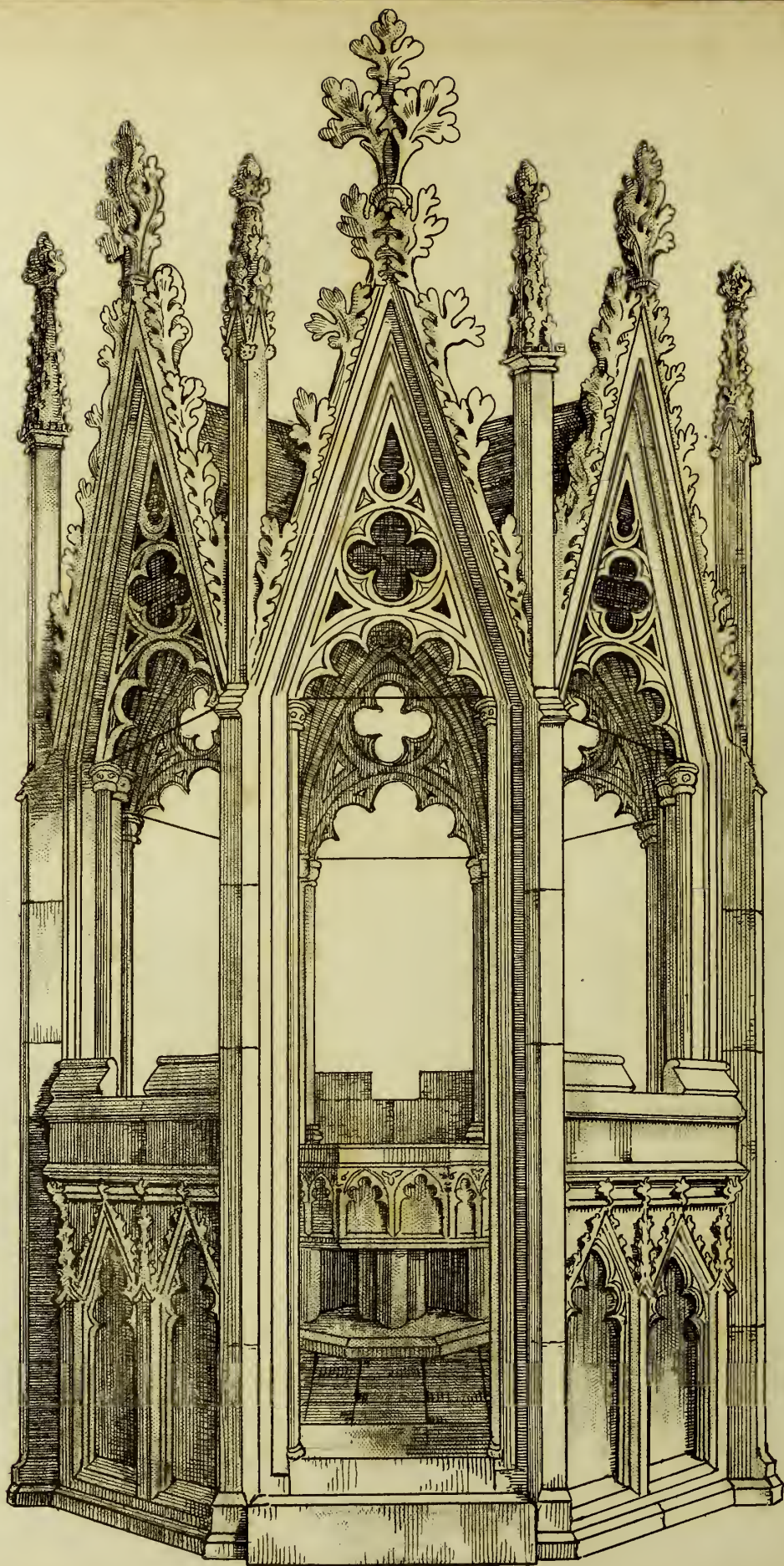
Studham.



Puddington.



Elstow.



S. Evans delin et fecit.

BAPTISTERY AT LUTON.

Published 1. March. 1895. by Tinsell & W. Davies.

removed. The upper compartments of the windows of this chapel are filled with small figures of saints and angels.

In a north window of the nave of Warden church, among other remains, is the figure of an abbot praying under a turretted and embattled canopy. Single figures of saints, &c. occur in several other churches, but none of them sufficiently remarkable to entitle them to particular notice.

Rood-Lofts, Screens, &c.

IN Tilbrook church is a rich Gothic screen of wood, between the nave and chancel. At Marston is a similar screen, richly ornamented with gilding and tracery; on the lower part are figures of saints and prophets under Gothic canopies, with inscriptions on scrolls. In Felmersham church is a light Gothic screen, the central arch of which is ornamented with figures of angels, instead of crockets: over it is a rood-loft remaining entire.

Gothic niches, some of them richly ornamented with sculpture and tracery, occur in several of the Bedfordshire churches; the most remarkable are at Arlesey, Tingrith, Sundon, Pavingham, Flitwick, and Harlington.

Fonts.

THE greater part of the fonts in this county are either circular or octagonal, and without any ornament; the following, which are octagonal, and for the most part of Toternhoe stone, are variously decorated. Edworth font is enriched with quatrefoils, roses, and shields; Barton with quatrefoils and roses; Clifton has on each side two plain arches; Caddington has roses, leopards' heads, &c.; Houghton-Conquest rich Gothic tabernacle work; Pertenhall, Kempston, and Stagfden, stand on clusters of pillars, on the sides of the two last are figures under Gothic canopies; Oakley has Gothic tracery; Sundon stands on a circular shaft, and has two pointed arches on each side; Stretley has ornaments of foliage, and zig-zag mouldings on the pedestal; Stepingly has shields of arms; Shitlington has quatrefoils on the sides; Sharnbrook and Wymington have Gothic tracery; Arlesey has figures of Adam and Eve, the crucifixion, &c. in compartments, some of which appear never to have been finished, and others have been much mutilated; Wilden has shields and quatrefoils; Luton stands on five pillars, and is ornamented with Gothic arches; this font is inclosed within a baptistry of stone at the west end of the nave, enriched with pinnacles, quatrefoils, and foliage, in the style of the fourteenth century.

Some of the circular fonts also are variously ornamented; Flitwick has the upper part scalloped; Houghton-Regis has various mouldings and foliage; Eaton Bray, Leighton-Bufard, and Holwell, are in the shape of a basin standing on five pillars,

some of which have capitals of foliage; Puddington has zig-zag mouldings; Studham is ornamented with dragons and foliage; Battlefen has crosses patées, and fleurs de lys.

Mepershall and Warden fonts are dodecagon; Gravenhurst and Tingrith decagon, the latter on a cluster of columns; Eaton-Socon is square, standing on four short pillars, with tracery of intersecting arches on the side; Southill is square, and has its sides ornamented with pointed arches.

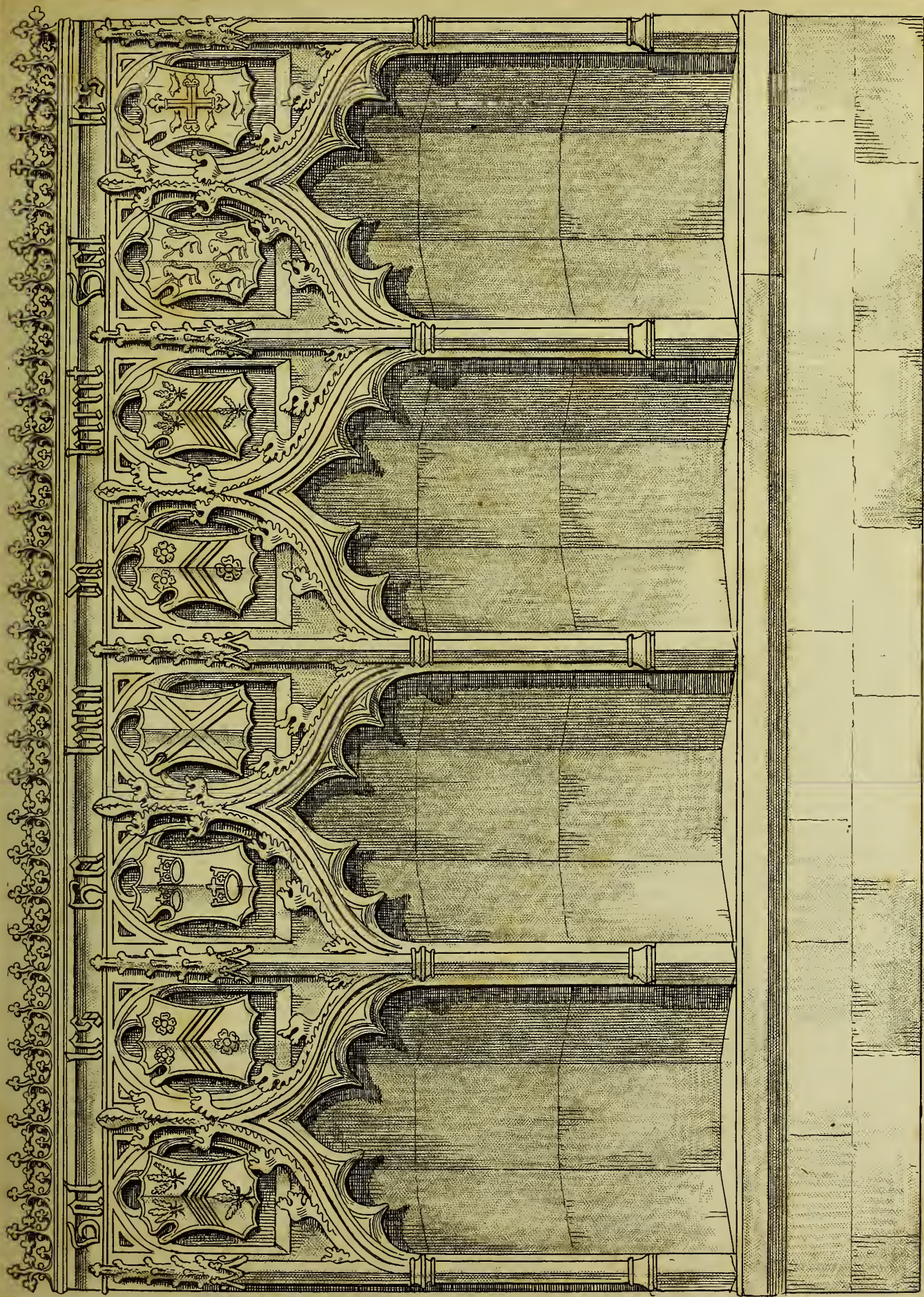
Stone Stalls and Piscinae.

MANY of the Bedfordshire churches have stone stalls in the south wall of the chancel, but few of them are remarkable for their ornaments. In Turvey and Luton churches, they are four in number; those at Luton, which were erected by Abbot Wheatenhurst, are ornamented with several coats of arms, and the Abbot's motto as on his tomb at St. Albans. Blunham and Caddington churches have three in each. Dunton, Higham-Gobion, Cranfield, Barton, Biggleswade, Sandy, and Sutton churches, have also three stone stalls with a *piscina* to each, and in some of them a double one; those of Sutton are richly ornamented with trefoils, crockets, pinnacles, &c. Tempsford and Sharnbrook churches have two; Hockliffe and St. Mary's church in Bedford two of unequal height without canopies, the former has a *piscina*; in Lower-Gravenhurst and Wymington churches are two with *piscinae*, those of Wymington are richly ornamented with crockets, &c. In Clifton church are two stone stalls with pointed arches, and a double *piscina*, all richly ornamented with crockets and pinnacles; at Chalgrave is a *piscina* with rich Gothic niches in the chancel, and another in the south aisle; a single *piscina* occurs in several other churches.

Ancient Tombs.

IN Salford church are two ancient stone coffins, with crosses and shields of arms on the lid. At Tilsforth is one for Adam de Tulleworth, with a French inscription in Gothic capitals. In Sutton church is a slab with a cross florée; and another in Oakley church-yard. In St. Paul's church at Bedford is a slab, with a French inscription in Gothic capitals, for Muriel Calt. At Lower Gravenhurst is the tomb of Sir Robert de Bilhemore, founder of the church, with a similar French inscription.

In Salford church is the tomb of a crusader, under a low arch richly ornamented; at the feet of the figure are two lions, and an angel at the head; on his shield is a plain chevron. In the south chancel of Pertenhall church is the figure of a crusader under a pointed arch ornamented with foliage. In the south aisle of Toddington church,



STONE STALLS IN LUTON CHURCH.

church, among the tombs of the Cheney's, is one of the Peyvre family as a crusader. At Chalgrave are two altar tombs, with the effigies of knights in armour, with mail gorgets, said to be some of the Loring family; but the arms do not correspond.

In the north wall of the chancel in Blunham and Little Staughton churches are altar tombs, under Gothic arches ornamented with quatrefoils. In Oakley church is an ancient tomb on the south side of the nave, under a large trefoil arch, for one of the family of Reynes, supposed to have been the founder of that church. In the nave of Tilsforth church, under a Gothic arch with pinnacles, is a recumbent figure of an ecclesiastic on an altar tomb. At Luton, under the arch which divides the Wenlock chapel from the chancel, is an altar tomb, with the effigies of an ecclesiastic, supposed to be that of William de Wenlock, great uncle of Lord Wenlock.

At Yilden, against the south wall of the nave, is a richly-ornamented tomb, without any figure.

In Wymington church, under an arch on the south side of the chancel, is an altar tomb, ornamented with Gothic tracery, on which is a black marble slab, with the figures on brass of John Curteys, mayor of the staple at Calais, who died in 1391, and his Lady, under Gothic canopies. In the same church are brasses, with the figures of Sir Thomas Bromflet, cup-bearer to Henry the Vth, in armour, with a lion at his feet, and Margaret his wife.

In Elstow church is a brass plate, with the effigies of Elizabeth Harvey, the last abbess of Elstow.

The most remarkable monuments of the sixteenth century are those of the Mordaunt family, at Turvey; Sir John Gostwick, at Willington; Sir Michael Fisher, at Clifton; Sir Edmund Anderson, at Eyworth; and the mutilated remains of those of the Cheney's, at Toddington. Those of the Kent family at Flitton are, for the most part, of the following century; as is the Countess of Elgin's mausoleum at Maulden.

Monastic Remains.

THERE are very few monastic remains of any consequence in Bedfordshire, except those of Dunstable Priory and Elstow Abbey. Besides the church at Dunstable, which has been already spoken of, part of the buildings of the monastery are to be seen in the house of Colonel Maddison, consisting of some rooms with groined roofs of stone.

At Elstow, the conventual church remains as already described: and adjoining to it, at the south-west corner, is a small building, having a low groined roof resting

on a single pillar, with a plain capital and base, in the style of the earliest Gothic architecture.

There are some slight remains of the Grey-Friars at Bedford, consisting of a part of the cloisters, and what is supposed to have been the refectory, now a barn.

Chicksand Priory, it is probable, was converted into a mansion-house soon after the dissolution. It is now the seat of Sir George Osborn. The east, and part of the south side of the cloisters, remain entire, with rich Gothic windows. On the west side, even with the ground, is a range of rooms with stone roofs, vaulted and groined.

No part of the buildings of Woburn Abbey, or of the Priors of Newenham and Caldwell, now exist. The site of the two last may be traced. The refectory of Bushmead Priory is converted into a stable and offices; that of Harold Priory, now a barn, has the original wooden roof. The small remains of Warden Abbey consist of a brick building, being only a part of what is represented in Buck's View.

Sites of Castles and Castellated Mansions.

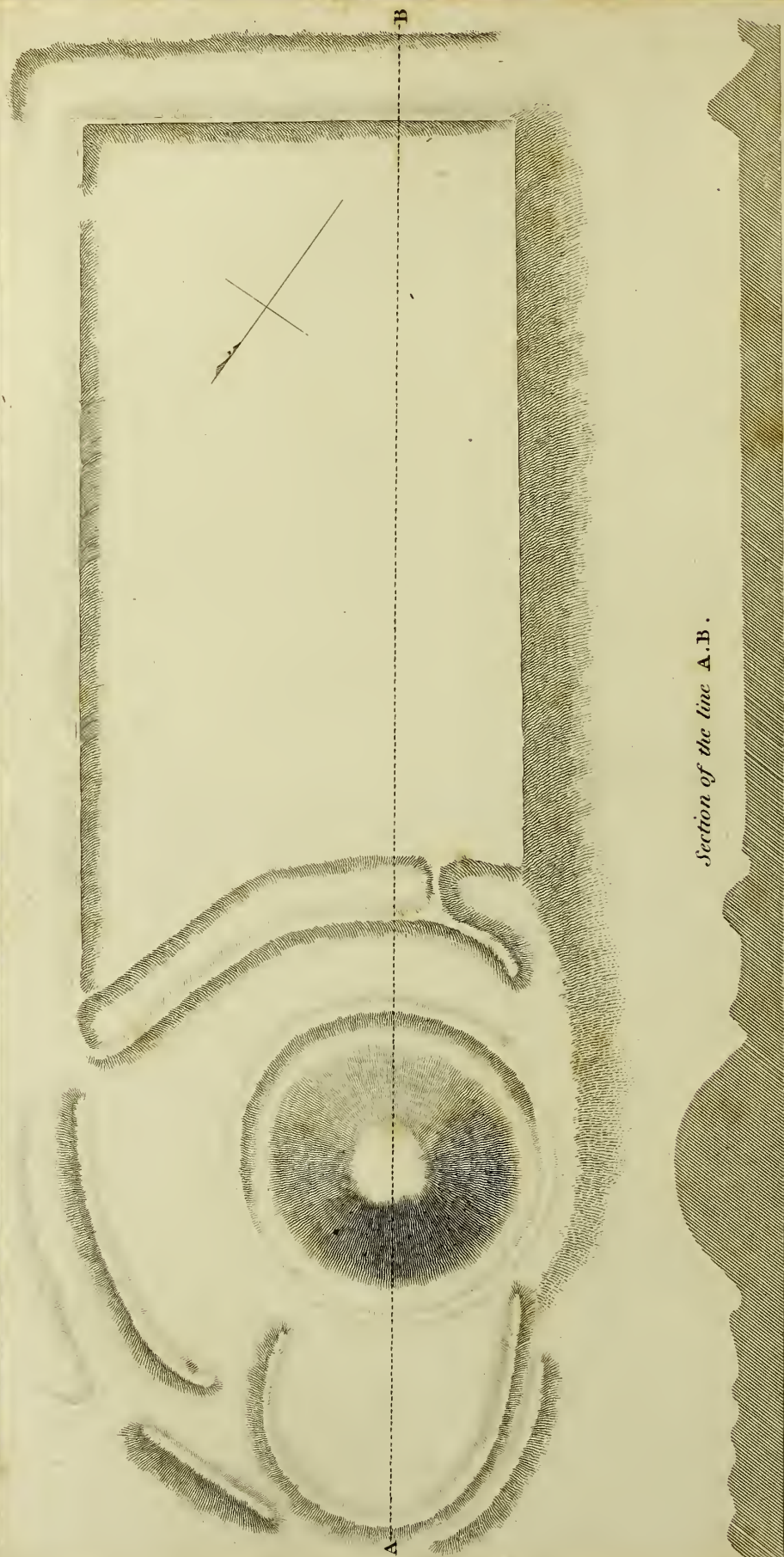
ALL the castles in this county have been demolished; but considerable earth-works remain on their sites. The only traces now existing of Bedford Castle, formerly the chief seat of the Beauchamps, barons of Bedford, consist of a large circular mount, with a flat space on the top, now used as a bowling-green, and some earth-works adjoining.

Extensive vestiges of Eaton-Socon Castle, which belonged to a younger branch of the Beauchamps of Bedford, are to be seen in a field near the church. In the centre is a high mount, surrounded by a moat, communicating with the river: about twenty-four yards beyond the moat is a vallum surrounding the whole, except on the river side.

The traces of Yelden Castle, the seat of the ancient barons of Trally, are extensive. The principal works form a square of about eighty paces; in the centre is a large mount called the Castle-hill, with a vallum on the west side of it, including a space 90 paces long and 45 wide; round these works is a moat, in some parts of which the water still remains; and beyond the moat appear traces of walls for a considerable space.

The elevated keeps of Risingshoe and Cainhoe Castles remain, with extensive earth-works. At Bletfoe and Ridgmont are also traces of castles. In a field near Toddington church is the keep of a castle, and some slight earth-works, called Conger-hill. At Meppershall, Puddington, and Thurleigh, are vestiges of castles, or at least castellated mansions. At Sutton is a moated site, in the park, commonly called





Section of the line A.B.

PLAN OF TOTENHOE CASTLE BEDFORDSHIRE.

called John of Gaunt's Castle. At Odell, a mansion-house, now the seat of Thomas Alston Esq. has been erected on the site of the Castle, the ancient seat of the Barons Wahull, which was a ruin in Leland's time. At Arlesey are considerable earth-works, called Etonbury.

Camps and Earth-works.

THE most remarkable object of this kind in Bedfordshire is called Toternhoe Castle; a work of great strength, situated on the brow of a hill about two miles north-west of Dunstable. It consists of a lofty circular mount, with a slight vallum round its base, and a larger one of an irregular form at some distance from it. On the south-east side is a camp in the form of a parallelogram, about 500 feet long and 250 in width, three sides of which are secured by a vallum and ditch, very entire on the south-east side; the south-west side, being on the edge of a precipice, has no vallum. It is probable that the irregular fortrefs first mentioned was British, and that the adjoining works were added by the Romans, whose station of Durocobrivæ is supposed to have been at Dunstable. The view from the mount is very extensive, commanding a long range of the Chiltern Hills, the vale of Aylesbury, and the central part of Bedfordshire.

A little more than a mile from Dunstable is a circular earth-work, about 2500 feet in circumference, commonly called Maiden-Bower, consisting of a single vallum and ditch.

On a hill near Sandy is a camp of large dimensions, and of an irregular oblong form, overlooking the site of a Roman station, now called Chesterfield. This camp was unquestionably occupied by the Romans, if not originally made by them.

Near Leighton-Bufard on the heath is an inclosure nearly circular, containing several fields surrounded by a ditch, which in many parts is deep, and has a good deal the appearance of having been a camp.

About four miles from Bedford, adjoining the road which leads to Eaton-Socon, on the north side of the river, is a circular vallum of considerable height, with openings on the north and south sides. The area is 112 feet in diameter.

The spot near Bushmead, which is called a camp in the late maps of the county, is merely the site of a moated mansion.

PAROCHIAL TOPOGRAPHY,

(ALPHABETICALLY ARRANGED.)

VERY little has been done towards elucidating the topography of this county. In the *Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica* are historical accounts of the parishes of Luton, Dunstable, Wymington, and Odell, and some answers to queries respecting Puddington. The late Rev. Mr. Cooper, who wrote the accounts of Wymington and Odell, had made collections for several other parishes in the county; but they consist chiefly of church notes and compilations from Dugdale's *Monasticon*, and other printed works. They are now the property of the Rev. Mr. Marsh, Vicar of Steventon, who has been many years collecting materials for a natural history of the county. The following brief account of the several parishes is collected from records in the public offices, aided by a variety of information obligingly communicated by the owners of landed property or their agents, and by the clergy. Every parish has been personally visited by the Editors, who desire to return their acknowledgments to all who have favoured them with their assistance, particularly to the Earl of Upper-Osney, Dr. Yeats, and Mr. Theod. Pearse of Bedford, the Rev. Hugh Wade Gery of Bushmead, Dr. Abbot, and Mr. Marsh. The distances of each village from the neighbouring towns are taken from Jeffries's map, made by actual survey.

AMPTHILL, anciently *Ametulle*, in the hundred of Redbornstoke, and deanery of Flitt, is a small neat town, pleasantly situated, but in a sandy soil. Its earliest charter for a market bears date 1219^f; it was then held, as it still is, on Thursdays. It was confirmed by a subsequent charter in 1242^g, with the grant of a fair on the festival of St. Mary Magdalen. The only fair now held is on the 4th of May. The market is not considerable. The town has been much improved by the removal of some old houses which stood very incommodiously in the market-place, where there is now a pump with an obelisk, erected by the Earl of Osney in 1785. There is no town-hall or other public building; the court of the honour is held in a mean old room called the Moot-house, which, although small, may have been used occasionally as a court of

^f Fin. Rot. 3 Hen. III. ^g C. 26 Hen. III.

justice. The assizes are said to have been held there in 1684, having been removed thither, as it is said, through the interest of the Earl of Aylesbury: the Epiphany sessions were certainly held there that year ^b. The number of inhabited houses within the parish of Ampthill in 1801, according to the returns made under the Population Act, was 237; of inhabitants 1234. The manor of Ampthill, at the time of the Norman survey, belonged to the baronial family of Albini, from whom it passed by female heirs to the St. Amands, and Beauchampsⁱ. William Beauchamp, who in right of his wife enjoyed the barony of St. Amand, conveyed Ampthill, in 1441, to Sir John Cornwall ^k, a distinguished military character in the reigns of Henry IV. and Henry V. By his gallant behaviour in a tournament at York, in 1401, he won the heart of Elizabeth, the King's sister, then the widow of John Holland, Earl of Huntingdon and Duke of Exeter. In the glorious battle of Agincourt he was one of the chosen officers who had the post of honour with the Duke of York in the van ^l. Leland says, that he "builted the castle of Antehill of such spoils as it is said he won in France." It was not till 1432 that he was created Lord Fanhope, and in 1433 Baron of Milbrook. The account which the learned antiquary above mentioned gives from hearsay, of the manner in which Lord Fanhope's lands came to the crown, and of their being granted by Edward IV. to Lord Grey of Ruthin, as a reward for the part which he took in the battle of Northampton, appears to be wholly erroneous, as Lord Fanhope died in peace seventeen years before that battle, at Ampthill castle ^m, whither he had retired after the death of his only legitimate son, who was slain in France. In 1453, ten years after the death of Lord Fanhope, Henry Duke of Exeter, his wife's son, entered into a bond of 6000 marks to abide by the arbitration of Sir Thomas Bourchier respecting the manor of Ampthill and other estates ⁿ. What became of it immediately after, is uncertain. The Duke of Exeter died in extreme poverty. The manor is next to be traced to the noble family of Grey, but whether they became possessed of it by grant or purchase does not appear. Reginald Grey, Earl of Kent, was possessed of it in 1524. Not long after this it came into the King's hands, probably by an exchange, and was made an honour by act of Parliament. Queen Catherine of Arragon resided at Ampthill whilst the business of the divorce was pending, and was cited thence to attend the commissioners at Dunstable, but refused to obey their summons^o. No accounts of Ampthill Castle, or its inhabitants, are to be discovered during the subsequent reigns; and it is most probable that it

^b Biograph. Brit. last Edition, vol. i. p. 607, notes.

ⁱ Bedfordshire Escheats, and Dugdale's Baronage.

^k Clauf. Rot. 19 Hen. VI.

^l Dugdale.

^m Escheat, 22 Hen. VI.

ⁿ Cl. 31 Hen. IV.

^o Holinshed.

was suffered to go to decay. The survey made by order of Parliament in 1649, speaks of it as having been long ago totally demolished. When Fuller, in his "Worthies," mentions Ampthill as one of those three which carried away the credit among the houses of the nobility in Bedfordshire, he meant Houghton Park, then (1662) the seat of the Earl of Aylesbury, and situated partly in Ampthill parish. We are told by Osborn, in his *Memoirs of King James's* reign, that the honour of Ampthill, no small present to be made at one time, as the writer observes, was given by that monarch to the Earl of Kelly. It soon reverted to the crown. In 1612, Thomas Lord Fenton, and Elizabeth his wife, resigned the office of high steward of the honour of Ampthill to the king. The following year the custody of the great park was granted to Lord Bruce, whose family became lessees of the honour^p. The lease continued in that noble family till 1738, when it was purchased by the Duke of Bedford. In the 17th century the Nicolls's were for many years lessees of Ampthill Great Park, under the Bruce's, who reserved to themselves the office of master of the game. The Nicolls's resided at the Great Lodge, or capital Mansion, as it is called in the survey of 1649. After the restoration, Ampthill Great Park was granted by Charles II. to Mr. John Ashburnham, as a reward for the faithful services which he had rendered to that monarch and his father^q. In 1720 it was purchased of the Ashburnham family by Lord Viscount Fitzwilliam, who sold it in 1736 to Lady Gowran, grandmother of the present noble owner, John, Earl of Upper Ossory, who, in 1800, became possessed of the lease of the honour of Ampthill, by exchange with the late Duke of Bedford. The site of Ampthill castle, which Leland describes as "standing stately on a hill, with "a four or five faire towers of stone in the inner warde, besides the basse courte," has been denoted by a Gothic column, erected in 1770, by the Earl of Ossory. It is inscribed with the following lines, from the pen of the late Earl of Orford :

"In days of yore here Ampthill's towers were seen,
The mournful refuge of an injur'd queen ;
Here flow'd her pure but unavailing tears,
Here blinded zeal sustain'd her sinking years :
Yet Freedom hence her radiant banner wav'd,
And love aveng'd a realm by priests enslav'd.
From Catherine's wrongs a nation's bliss was spread,
And Luther's light from Henry's lawless bed."

The present mansion at Ampthill is situated near the foot of the hill, yet sufficiently elevated to command a prospect over the vale of Bedford, broken by the fine trees in the park. It was built about the year 1694, by the first Lord Ashburnham. The

^p Duke of Bedford's Records.

^q Lord Ossory's Papers.

Earl of Offory has a small collection of pictures at Ampthill; amongst which may be noticed an original portrait of Sterne, by Sir Joshua Reynolds. This mansion felt very severely the effects of the dreadful storm on the 19th of August 1800: not less than 700 panes of glass were broken in the west front by the hail-stones; which, by persons of the strictest veracity, were affirmed to have been seven inches in circumference, and of a flat form. The town of Ampthill, and many of the neighbouring villages, were in an equal degree sufferers; scarcely a window, which was exposed to the storm, escaped being broken.

The grounds of Ampthill, which are disposed on a steep natural bank behind the house, afford some very beautiful scenery. A survey of Ampthill Park, taken by order of Parliament in 1653, describes 287 trees as being hollow, and too much decayed for the use of the navy. These oaks, thus saved from the axe by the Commissioners' report, remain to the present day; and, by their picturesque appearance, contribute much to the ornament of the place.

The church of Ampthill contains little that is remarkable. The figures of Lord Fanhope and the Dutchess of Exeter, mentioned by Sandford, have been removed from the east window of the aisle. The only monument of note is that of Robert Nicolls, of Ampthill Park, Governor of Long Island, who, being in attendance on the Duke of York, was slain on board his ship in 1672. A cannon-ball, said to have been that which occasioned his death, is inlaid in the marble within the pediment; and on the moulding is this inscription:

“Instrumentum mortis et immortalitatis.”

The benefice is a rectory in the patronage of Lord Offory.

In the year 1654, the name of Colonel Okey, the regicide, occurs in the parish register, attesting the celebration of marriages as a justice of peace. About that time he purchased the honour of Ampthill, as part of the confiscated property of the crown^r, and resided, it is probable, at the Park. The signature of Edmund Wingate the arithmetician, occurs also as a justice the same year. He resided at Wood-end, in Harlington.

About a mile from the town of Ampthill is a hospital, founded in 1690, by Mr. John Cross, for twelve poor men and a reader, and for four poor women. The reader has fifteen pounds per annum, the others ten pounds. They must be unmarried. The Vice Chancellor of the University of Oxford, and the Bishop of that Diocese, are visitors.

ARLESEY, anciently Alricheseye or Alnerichseye, about three miles south east of Shefford, in the hundred of Clifton, was formerly a market town. Its market, which was on Wednesday, is mentioned in the record of Doomfday. The tolls were

^r Browne Willis's Papers in the Bodleian Library.

then valued at 10s. per annum. It was confirmed in 1270 to Stephen Edworth, then lord of the manor, with a fair to be held at the festival of St. Peter and St. Paul. Both the market and fair have been long disused.

In the reign of Edward III. the De la Poles had the manor¹. In the reign of Henry VIII. the manor of Arlesey, alias Etonbury, was held by the Tanfields under the Earl of Shrewsbury². It is now the property of Richard Edwards, a minor, in whose family it has been for many years. It is probable that the ancient entrenchment near the road to Baldock, called Etonbury, was the original site of this manor. It appears to have been a place of considerable strength.

In the church are monuments of Sir Samuel Browne, a barrister, who died in 1665, and several of the families of Vigerous and Edwards. Richard Edwards, who died in 1691, is called in his epitaph the last grand reader of the temple. The great tithes of this parish, which were appropriated to the Abbey of Waltham, were the property of the late Mrs. Schutz, daughter and heir of Dr. Browne, in whose family they have been vested for many years. Michael Angelo Taylor esq. is patron of the vicarage, which is united to Aftwick, and lies in the deanery of Shefford.

ASPLEY GUISE, in the hundred of Manhead and deanery of Flitt, about two miles north of Woburn, received its additional name from the ancient family of Gyfe, or Guife. It had formerly a market; a charter for which was granted to Anselm de Gyfe in 1267³, with a fair at St. Botolph's tide. The market, which was on Fridays, has been long disused, but it continues to be a populous village, and is very pleasantly situated.

The manor was anciently vested in the Beauchamps, as parcel of the Barony of Bedford. Simon de Beauchamp surrendered it by way of a composition to Guy de St. Walery, who had laid claim to his whole barony⁴. Reginald de St. Walery gave it to Hubert de Burgh, Earl of Kent, and Grand Justiciar of England, whose widow Margaret, daughter of the King of Scots, died seised of it, as her dower, in 1259⁵. After this, Aspley became the property and chief seat of the Gyfes or Guifes, ancestors of the Gloucestershire family of that name. Anselm de Gyfe had this manor in marriage with a daughter of Hubert de Burgh above-mentioned. John de Gyfe was one of the knights of this shire in 1328. In 1540 John Guife esq. gave the manor of Aspley to king Henry VIII. in exchange for lands in Gloucestershire⁶. It is probable that the king granted it to Sir Ralph Sadler⁷, one of his chief favourites, whose descendants are still possessed of it. Edwin Sadleir, of Aspley, was created a baronet in 1661. Sir Edwin Sadleir, his son, the last baronet, died in 1719, bequeathing

¹ Cl. Rot. ² Escheats. ³ Cart. 51 Hen. III. ⁴ Dugdale's Baronage. ⁵ Escheats.

⁶ Records in the Augmentation Office.

⁷ So the name has of late been spelt.

the manor of Aspley to his kinsman George Sadleir esq. from whom it has descended to the present proprietor Richard Vernon Sadleir esq.

In the church is the effigies in brass of one of the Guise family in armour, a tomb of Sir Edwin Sadleir, the last baronet of that name, and an ancient altar tomb, with the effigies of a man in chain armour. The advowson of the rectory was given to the priory of Newenham by Simon de Beauchamp the founder. It has been in the Duke of Bedford's family since the year 1752. An Act of Parliament for inclosing this parish was passed in 1759, and a second Act in 1793. The rectory was consolidated with that of Husbourn Crawley in 1796.

ASTWICK, in the hundred of Biggleswade, and the deanery of Shefford, is a small village on the borders of Hertfordshire, about five miles from Shefford, a little north of the road to Baldock. The manor was formerly in the Beauchamps and Nevills^z, of late years in the family of Browne, and now the property of Michael Angelo Taylor esq. In the church are memorials of the family of Cockayne. The benefice is a rectory united to Arlesey, and is in the patronage of Mr. Taylor. The advowson was formerly in the priory of Chicksand. In the founder's charter it is called the *Chapel* of Elstwick:

GREAT BARFORD gives name to a hundred, and is in the deanery of Eaton. It is a village about six miles N. E. of Bedford, on the road to St. Neots. The principal manor was formerly in the St. Johns^a. It is now the property of John Franklyn esq. in whose family it has been for several generations. Creakers, in this parish, was in the 15th, 16th, and 17th centuries a seat and manor of the Fitzjeffreys, one of whom has a memorial in the church. It is now the property of Mr. Pedley, whose father purchased it of the Halseys. The old mansion, of which a small part only remains, stood within a moated site. The manor of Netherbury, which belonged to the Mordaunts, is now the property of Charles James Metcalf, a minor, in whose family it has been for a considerable time. The manor of Birchfield, called anciently Brytvills, Burtfield, or Burdesleys, was formerly in the Spencer family^b, and is now the property of J. Polhill esq. In 1481 the Fitzjeffreys had a moiety of this manor^c. The benefice is a vicarage in the patronage of the Master and Fellows of Trinity College, Cambridge, to whom the great tithes are appropriated. Mr. Franklyn is lessee under the college. At this place is a bridge over the Ouse, built in the early part of the 15th century^d.

^z Escheats, Ric. II. ^a Collins's Peerage. ^b Cole's Escheats. ^c Escheats in the Tower.

^d See the Charter of 25 Hen. VI. to the Town of Bedford.

LITTLE BARFORD, or BERKFORD, in the hundred of Biggleswade and deanery of Shefford, is a small village on the borders of Huntingdonshire, about two miles and a half from St. Neots. The manor has of late years been in the families of Lee and Browne, and is now the property of Mr. Williamson of Baldock, who has also the advowson of the rectory. The parish was inclosed by agreement previously to 1778, when an Act of Parliament was obtained to confirm it. An allotment of land was assigned in lieu of tithes to the rector. Nicholas Rowe, the dramatic poet, was born at this place in 1661.

BARTON, sometimes called *Barton in the Clay*, from its situation at the commencement of the clayey soil under Barton hill, is in the hundred of Flitt and deanery of Dunstable, about seven miles from Luton, on the road to Bedford. The manor of Barton was given to the Monks of Ramsey by their first Abbot Eadnothus, afterwards Bishop of Dorchester^c. After the reformation it passed through various hands, having never continued long in the same family. It is now the property of Edward Willes esq. whose father, the Bishop of Bath and Wells, purchased it of Mr. Jenkins of Harpenden. The rectory is in the gift of the crown.

BATTLEDEN, in the hundred of Manshead and deanery of Dunstable, is a small village about three miles from Woburn, between the two great roads. In the 13th and 14th centuries the manor was in the family of Firmband or Fremband^f, who twice represented the county in parliament in the reign of Edward III. It was afterwards in the Chetwodes. About the reign of Queen Elizabeth it became the property of the Duncombes, by the marriage of William Duncombe esq. with Ellen, daughter and heir of William Saunders esq. of Potsgrove.

It was to one of this family, Sir Saunders Duncombe, a gentleman pensioner to King James and Charles I. that we are indebted for the accommodation of sedans or close chairs; the use of which was first introduced by him in this country in the year 1634, when he procured a patent, which vested in him and his heirs the sole right of carrying persons "up and down in them" for a certain term. It is probable that Sir Saunders, who was a great traveller, had seen them at Sedan, where Dr. Johnson supposes that they were first made. It is remarkable, that Capt. Bayley first introduced the use of hackney coaches in London the same year^g.

In 1706^h the manor of Battle den was purchased by Allen Bathurst esq. a distinguished political character during the reigns of queen Anne and George I.; by

^c Dugdale's Monasticon. ^f Escheats in the Tower. ^g See the Strafford Papers, vol. i. p. 336.

^h Sir G. P. Turner's Papers.

the former of whom he was in 1711 created Baron Bathurst of Battleſden, which continued for ſome years to be the country-ſeat of that nobleman, and the occaſional refort of the celebrated conſtellation of wits, of whom he was the patron and the friend. In 1724 Lord Bathuſt ſold Battleſden to Sir Gregory Page, great uncle of the preſent proprietor, Sir Gregory Page Turner bart. In the church are monuments of the Duncombe family from 1603 to 1688. Sir Gregory Page Turner is patron of the rectory.

BEDFORD, the county town, is ſituated on the river Oufe, which divides it into two parts, and is fifty miles from London.

It is generally ſuppoſed that Bedford was the *Bedicanford* of the Saxon Chronicle, where the battle was fought between Cuthwulf and the Britons in 572; and it is ſaid to have been the burial-place of Offa king of the Mercians. Matthew Paris ſpeaks of the chapel in which he was interred, as having been dilapidated and carried away by the floods. Edward the Elder, as Camden informs us on the authority of Hoveden, repaired Bedford, which had been ruined in the Daniſh wars, and built a new town on the ſouth ſide of the river, called Mikeſgate; but the author of the Saxon Chronicle, and other writers, ſpeak of the building on the other ſide of the river as a fortrefs only, or citadel. Authors vary conſiderably alſo as to the date of this building. Bromton makes it 907, the Saxon Chronicle 919. The Daniſh army was repulſed by the townſmen of Bedford in 921¹; in 1010 they were more ſucceſsful, and burned the town^k.

The record of Doomsday ſpeaks of the town of Bedford as being taxed as half a hundred both for ſoldiers and ſhipping. Remigius, biſhop of Lincoln, is ſaid to have taken it away from the church of St. Paul, and to have retained it unjuſtly in his own hands.

King William Rufus gave the Barony of Bedford to Pain de Beauchamp^l, who built a ſtrong caſtle adjoining the town. Bedford caſtle ſuſtained a ſiege againſt King Stephen and his army in 1137; but hiſtorians differ very much in their accounts, both as to the event of the ſiege, and who were the defenders. Dugdale, quoting ancient authorities, ſays, that Milo de Beauchamp and his brothers, hearing that the king had beſtowed their ſiſter in marriage, together with the whole Barony of Bedford, which had belonged to Simon de Beauchamp their father, unto Hugh Pauper, brother to the Earl of Leiceſter, garrifoned the caſtle of Bedford, then a fort of great ſtrength environed with a mighty rampire of earth, and a high wall, within which was an impregnable tower; ſo that the king, *not being able to get it by aſſault*, brought his army before it, and, after a long and hard ſiege, obtained it by

¹ Sax. Chron.^k Ibid.^l Dugdale's Baronage.

surrender, through the mediation of his brother Henry de Blois bishop of Winchester, Milo de Beauchamp and his soldiers marching out upon honourable terms^m. Camden, without entering into particulars, merely mentions that Stephen was the first who took this castle with great slaughter. Holinshed informs us, that during the wars between Stephen and David king of Scotland, Bedford, which had been given to David's son Henry, as appertaining to the earldom of Huntingdon, was garrisoned by the Scots; and that after being besieged for thirty days together, by Stephen, who every day gave an assault or alarm, it was at length won by him *by pure force and strength*. The circumstance, of Bedford having been thus for a time annexed to the earldom of Huntingdon, is confirmed by a record of parliament, by which it appears that the abbess of Elstow, in 1327, preferred a petition, claiming the third penny in the town of Bedford, under a grant of Malcolm king of Scotland and earl of Huntingdon. The burgesses of Bedford, in reply, affirmed that Malcolm never had the lordship of the townⁿ. It is most probable, that before his time it had been restored to the Beauchamps. In 1190 Simon de Beauchamp gave 100l. for the government of Bedford castle^o.

In 1216 William de Beauchamp, being then possessed of the barony of Bedford, took part with the rebellious barons, and received them as friends into his castle, which they were advancing to besiege^p. The king having sent his favourite, Faukes de Brent, to summon the castle, it was surrendered within a few days, and given to him for his good services^q. The king appears to have been there in person the same year^r. Matthew Paris informs us that Faukes de Brent (being thus possessed of the barony by the king's gift) rebuilt and fortified the castle, for which purpose he pulled down the collegiate church of St. Paul; and that the abbess of the neighbouring convent of Elstow, hearing of his sacrilege, took the sword out of the hand of that saint's image in her church, and would not replace it till justice had overtaken the offender: but a charter of the first of Henry the third entirely exonerates Faukes de Brent from this charge, for by it the king grants the church of Tindene to the Monks of Newenham, as a compensation for his father king John having ordered the church of Saint Paul's at Bedford, to them belonging, to be pulled down, when he caused Bedford castle to be fortified^s. It is certain that Faukes de Brent, when he was in possession of this castle, presuming upon its impregnable strength, set at nought all law and authority; and having been fined by the king's justices itinerant at Dunstable, in the year 1224, for his various outrages and depredations upon the property of his less powerful neighbours, he sent a party of soldiers, who seized Henry de Braybroke one of the king's justices, and treating him with great barbarity,

^m Baronage, Vol. i. p. 223, 224.

ⁿ Parl. Rolls.

^o Dugdale.

^p Ibid.

^q M. Paris.

^r Pat. 18. Joh.

^s Pat. 1 Hen. III. printed in Dugdale's Monasticon, Vol. ii.

brought

brought him prisoner to the castle at Bedford¹. The king hearing of these outrages, marched to Bedford in person, attended by Stephen Langton archbishop of Canterbury, and the principal peers of the realm. On this occasion the archbishops, bishops, and abbots granted a voluntary aid to the king, and two labourers from every hide of their lands to work the engines employed in the siege².

Camden has extracted from the Chronicle of Dunstaple, the following account of the siege written by an eye-witness: "On the east side," says the writer, "was one *Petraria* and two *Mangonella* which daily battered the tower, and on the west side two *Mangonella* ruined the old tower, and one *Mangonell* the south, and one on the north made two breaches in the wall opposed to them. Besides these, there were two wooden towers raised above the height of the castle for the cross-bow-men and scouts, also many others in which the cross-bow-men and slingers lay in ambush. There was also a machine called a cat, under which miners had free passage to sap the walls of the tower and castle. The castle was taken by four assaults. In the first was taken the barbican, in the second the outer bail, in the third the wall near the old tower was overthrown by the miners, through the breach of which they with great danger made themselves masters of the inner bail: on the fourth assault the miners set fire to the tower, and when the smoke burst out and great cracks appeared in the tower the besieged surrendered." The men of Dunstaple made the second assault here mentioned, in which the outer bail was taken, for which service they had a considerable share of the plunder³. Many lives were lost by the fall of the old tower. The siege lasted two months, uncommon efforts being used to get possession of this nursery of sedition, as Camden styles it, which was deemed by its owner to have been of such strength as almost to defy any mode of assault then in use. The success of the besiegers was attributed chiefly to the use of a lofty wooden castle, higher than the walls, which gave the besiegers an opportunity of observing every thing that passed within. Faukes de Brent was not in the castle at the time of its capture; his brother William with four and twenty of his officers were executed; Culmo another brother received the king's pardon; Faukes himself hastened to Bedford to crave for mercy, under the protection of the bishop of Coventry, and was pardoned on condition of being banished the realm. The king ordered the castle to be dismantled, and the ditches to be filled up. The stones were given to the monks of the two neighbouring priories, Newenham and Caldwell⁴. The barony of Bedford was restored to William de Beauchamp, who obtained the king's leave to erect a mansion on the site of the castle, and to inclose it with a wall, not exceeding the height of that which belonged to the second ward, and to be without any battlement⁵.

¹ M. Paris. ² Chron. Dunst. ³ Chron. Dunst. ⁴ Chron. Dunst. ⁵ Dugdale.

The king's orders, with respect to the total demolition of the castle, appear not to have been carried into effect, for John lord Moubray, who, through a female heir, inherited a part of the estates of the Beauchamps, is said in the inquisition taken after his death, in 1361, to have died seized of the *ruinous* castle at Bedford; and Camden speaks of its ruins as existing in his time, overhanging the river on the east side of the town. There is not a stone now remaining, but the vestiges of the castle are to be seen at the back of the Swan Inn. On the keep is a bowling-green, formerly of much celebrity. After the death of John Moubray, the last duke of Norfolk of that name, the site of Bedford castle appears to have descended by a co-heir of the Moubrays to William marquis of Berkeley, who gave it to Sir Reginald Bray^a. The site of the castle with the Swan inn is now the property of the duke of Bedford, and it is presumed that it passed from the Gostwicks by purchase to the Marlborough family, and from them, together with several other estates which had been in the Gostwicks, to the Duke of Bedford's grandfather.

The barony of Bedford, consisting of several manors in Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire, was divided among the three daughters of William de Beauchamp, who died in the reign of Edward I. Maud, wife of Roger de Moubray, Ela, wife of Baldwin Wake, and Beatrix, wife of Thomas Fitzotes. Some of the descendants of these co-heirs continued for many generations to possess, either entirely or in portions, manors which had been parcel of this barony. The barons of Bedford having been anciently lord almoners to the kings of England on the day of their coronation, Thomas de Moubray, as one of their co-heirs by the marriage of his ancestor with Maud de Beauchamp, and John Lord Latimer, as inheriting a part of the barony which had passed in marriage with Maud, daughter of Beatrix de Beauchamp, to the Botetorts, claimed this office with its perquisites at the coronation of king Henry IV. The claim of Lord Latimer was allowed, and Sir Thomas Grey was appointed to represent Thomas de Moubray, whose lands were then in the king's hands^b. At the coronation of James II. the earl of Exeter, descended from the Latimers by the marriage of his ancestor Thomas earl of Exeter with one of the co-heiresses of John Neville, the last Lord Latimer^c; Sir George Blundell descended from
Ela

^a See the Rolls of Parliament, Vol. vi.

^b Vincent's MSS. in Coll. Arm.

^c The immediate descendants of the Latimers who inherited from the Botetorts, failed by the death of John Neville, the first Lord Latimer of that family without issue; but the manors, which were parcel of the barony of Bedford, were entailed on his brother Ralph Neville earl of Westmorland, whose son George became Lord Latimer, and descended to John Neville the last Lord Latimer, who left four daughters co-heiresses, from one of whom the Marquis of Exeter is descended. The other daughters married the Earl of Northumberland, Sir William Cornwallis, and Sir John Danvers. The only known descendants in lineal succession from the three daughters of William de Beauchamp, baron of Bedford

Ela de Beauchamp through the Pigots and Gascoignes; and Thomas Snag esq. who, it is presumed, possessed some lands parcel of the barony by purchase, claimed the office of almoner, which was adjudged for that time to the earl of Exeter^d. In the reign of Henry VIII. the Gostwicks acquired a considerable portion of this barony by purchase, partly from the Bedingfields. It is presumed that the interest which the Gostwick family had in the barony passed with the estates, which were sold by them to the dukes of Marlborough, and were afterwards purchased of the Marlborough family by John duke of Bedford. The manor of Bedford, which was formerly part of the barony, has long been vested in the corporation.

Before the conquest, there was a collegiate church at Bedford, dedicated to St. Paul. Rohefia or Roife, wife of Pain de Beauchamp, changed the prebendaries into canons regular. Her son Simon removed them to a new site in the neighbouring parish of Goldington, afterwards called Newenham^e, about a mile from Bedford down the river; from which circumstance and his extensive benefactions he was esteemed their founder, and was so called on his tomb, which in Leland's time existed in the present church of St. Paul, having been removed, it is probable, from the ancient collegiate church, which was pulled down by king John as mentioned before.

Caldwell or Cawdwell Priory, about a quarter of a mile west of Bedford, on the banks of the Ouse, was founded in the reign of king John, by Simon Barescot or Basket, alderman of Bedford, for brethren of the order of the Holy Cross or Holy Sepulchre, and was dedicated to the Virgin Mary; Robert de Houton gave the site. The founder conferred the patronage of this convent on Roger le Marechal. It passed afterwards to the Latimers and Uffords^f. The order of the Holy Sepulchre falling to decay not long after the establishment of this monastery, it is probable that it was replenished with Austin canons; for at the time of its suppression by Henry VIII. it was stated to be a priory of the last-mentioned order, and was then dedicated to St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist. Its clear yearly income was stated to be 109l. 8s. 5d. The site was granted in 1563 to Thomas Leigh^g, whose descendants continued there in 1620^h. In 1682, it was the property of Edmund Gardiner esq.ⁱ who had a seat there, which has been pulled down many

Bedford (as traced by Francis Townsend esq. Windsor Herald), are Lord Stourton, Lord Petre, and the Earl of Berkeley from Maud the elder daughter; the Earl of Peterborough, the Duke of Leeds, Sir William Wake bart. Sir John Reade bart. the Earl of Guildford, and Sir Richard Bedingfield bart. all descended from Ela the second daughter of William de Beauchamp (through the Pateshulls); and the Duke of Beaufort, the Earl of Leicester, the Duke of Marlborough, and Thomas Clifford esq. descended (through the Botetorts), from Beatrix third daughter of William de Beauchamp.

^d Sandford's History of the Coronation of James II. ^e Leland's Collectan. ^f Dugdale's Monast.

^g Tanner. ^h MS. Diary of Th. Archer, rector of Houghton Conquest.

ⁱ Monument of his daughter-in-law Mary Lysons in St. Mary's Church.

years ago, and a farm-house built in its place. The estate continued in the Gardiner family till about the year 1780. It now belongs to George Livius esq. Traces of the conventual buildings may be seen in a field adjoining the farm-house.

The house of Grey-Friars, or Franciscans, in Bedford, was founded by Mabel Pateshull, lady of Bletsoe, before the year 1311^k. Leland describes her tomb as being on the south side of the high altar of the conventual church, under an arch, with an epitaph, in which she was called the foundress. He speaks also of the tomb of queen Eleanor, with her "image of plaine plate of brasse encrounid;" that of one of the Lord Moubrays, (John Lord Moubray,) who died in 1361; and Sir Richard Irencester, who was said to have made the body of the church. The revenues of this monastery, when suppressed, were estimated only at 3l. 15s. 2d. clear yearly value. Its site, on which is now a farm-house, (to the north-west of the town in the parish of St. Paul's,) was granted by Henry VIII. to John Gostwick, master of the horse^l; it is now the property of the earl of Ashburnham. The few remains which still exist of the conventual buildings, exhibit some vestiges of the cloisters. A barn adjoining to the house is said to have been the refectory.

St. Leonard's hospital, on the south side of the town, was founded before the year 1302, by a townsman of Bedford. A record of that date calls it "the poor house of St. Leonard, in which were six freres chapleynes wearing a religious habit^m." The patronage of this hospital was given by the town to Sir Reginald Bray, for his good offices in getting their fee-farm rent reducedⁿ. It appears that the manor of Everton, on the borders of the county, belonged to this hospital^o, the revenues of which were valued in 1535 at 16l. 6s. 8¼d. *per annum*^p. The site, which is in St. John's parish, is now a farm of the duke of Bedford.

The hospital of St. John the Baptist was founded in the year 1280^q, by Robert de Parys, for a master and two or more brethren, priests, who were to pray for the souls of the founder, John St. John, Henry St. John, and John St. John, grandson of John; and likewise for the reception and support of decayed freemen of the town of Bedford. Many years before the reformation the hospital had ceased to be occupied according to the directions of the founder; and it appears by the surveys made of chantries and hospitals in the reign of Henry VIII. and Edward VI., that the hospital and parish church of St. John had long been consolidated, and that there was no minister in that parish with the cure of souls but the master of

^k Leland.

^l Tanner.

^m Rolls of Parliament, Vol. i. p. 154.

ⁿ Leland.

^o Placit. Inquis. &c. de terris in Com. Bed. in Turr. Lond.

^p Tanner.

^q The foundation is by some writers said to have been in the year 980. The mistake has been occasioned by a memorandum in bishop Longland's register at Lincoln, where the date is thus erroneously written, An^o Dni Mill^o nonocentesimo lxxx^{mo}. Other ancient records mention 1280 as the date of the foundation, which corresponds with the pedigree of the St. Johns.

the said hospital. It appears also, by other records, that the presentation to these joint offices was vested in the corporation of Bedford. The right of the corporation has been frequently contested by persons claiming the houses and lands belonging to the hospital under grants from the crown; but the corporation, or rather the master and co-brethren, have been always successful. It was determined so early as 1552, upon a suit which took place after the first grant, that the hospital did not come under the description of superstitious establishments, intended to be abolished by the statute. Since the last decision in 1743, the master and co-brethren have continued in quiet possession, and the corporation have enjoyed, unmolested, their right of presentation. The master or rector and co-brethren have been, from very ancient time, a body corporate, and have had a common seal. The co-brethren, who are poor freemen of Bedford appointed by the master, have no apartments in the hospital, which adjoins St. John's church, and has been long appropriated as the rectory-house. The ancient hall is still remaining. The estate is held on lease under the master and co-brethren. The co-brethren receive a weekly allowance of 9*d.* each.

The bridge over the Ouse, which connects the north and south parts of the town of Bedford, is of great antiquity. There was formerly upon, or adjoining to it^r, a free chapel or oratory, with a hospital, dedicated to St. Thomas the Martyr. It was built by the townsmen in the early part of the 14th century, and endowed with lands for the support of a warden or chaplain, who enjoying the endowment for life, was to repair the bridge at his own expence^s. The appointment of a warden appears to have been in dispute between the townsmen of Bedford and the crown. As no mention appears of it on the Chantry Roll, it is supposed to have been dilapidated before the reformation. Two gateways, one of which served for the town gaol, were taken down in 1765, to render the passage over the bridge more commodious.

Not far from St. Paul's church is an ancient Gothic building, now used as a brewery. This is supposed to have been part of one of the prebendal houses, which Leland speaks of as existing in his time at Bedford, notwithstanding their stalls had been removed to Lincoln. The building above-mentioned is held on lease under the dean and chapter of that church.

The Gothic building in the George-yard is nothing more than part of the original structure of that ancient inn, which is spoken of by the same name in a record of the year 1481^t. In the centre is a large gateway, and on one side the figure of St. George under a Gothic niche.

^r Most Records (Pat. 42 Edw. III. &c.) describe it as on the bridge; but a petition to parliament in 1338, (see Rolls of Parliament, Vol. ii. p. 100.) speaks of it as close adjoining to the bridge on the land of Lord Moubay.

^t Rolls of Parliament II. p. 100.

^s Esch. 20 Edw. IV. See under the name of Illingworth.

Bedford is esteemed a borough and corporation by prescription, and is so called in all legal proceedings. The first charter on record is that of Henry II. who, in 1166, granted and confirmed the town of Bedford to the burgessees, subject to a payment of 40*l. per annum* as a fee-farm rent to the crown. His son Richard confirmed their mercantile guild and all their ancient privileges, and granted other new privileges and immunities similar to those enjoyed by the burgessees of Oxford. Richard II. granted more extended privileges, and, among others, a view of frank-pledge within the borough. In his charter the corporation are styled the mayor, bailiffs, and burgessees; their present style of mayor, bailiffs, burgessees, and commonalty, first occurs in an inquisition of the reign of Henry VI. They consist of a mayor, recorder, an indefinite number of aldermen, two chamberlains, and thirteen common council-men. The number of aldermen is necessarily uncertain, the office of mayor being always filled by a burgesse, who has previously served the offices of bailiff and chamberlain, and who immediately after the expiration of his mayoralty, becomes an alderman. The mayor, bailiffs, and chamberlains, are elected annually on the first of September. The common council are elected annually, from among the burgessees, on the Wednesday before St. Matthew's day. The bailiffs for the time being are sheriffs of the borough, and lords of the manor.

In the reign of Henry VI. the fee-farm rent payable by the burgessees to the crown, being then 46*l. per annum*, was remitted in part for a time, on a representation of the poverty of the town^u. By the intercession of Sir Reginald Bray, when he was prime minister to Henry VII. it was permanently reduced to 20*l. per annum*; and at some subsequent time to 16*l. 5s. 8d.* which is now payable to Lord Carteret and the Rev. John Pery, as representatives, it is presumed, of those who purchased the rent of the crown. Lord Carteret's share, about 12*l. per annum*, has been long given in augmentation of the vicarage of St. Paul's, which is in the patronage of that nobleman.

The town-hall, or sessions-house, (in which are held the assizes for the county) was built in 1753. It is situated in the area before St. Paul's church. The town gaol, which stood formerly on the bridge, was taken down in or about the year 1765, after which, a temporary gaol was fitted up under the town-hall, and afterwards a new gaol was built in St. Lloyd's, near the alms-houses; but being found inconvenient, was taken down, and another has been lately erected to the North-west of the town, near the road to Kettering; where a new county gaol also was completed in the year 1801, towards the building of which the late

^u Among other causes which led to the decay of the town, is stated the building of Barford bridge, which diverted many travellers from passing through Bedford. See the charter of 25 Henry VI. extracts from which, and various other charters, have been obligingly communicated by Mr. Theed Pearse, with permission of the corporation.

St. Paul's is a very handsome Gothic building, with a spire. In the south
H 2 chancel.

chancel, which is fitted up for the archdeacon's court, is an altar-tomb with brass figures of Sir William Harper and his lady. Sir William, who died in 1574, was sometime Lord Mayor of London, and a great benefactor to this his native town. On the east wall is a modern monument, with medallions of Sir William and Lady Harper, put up in 1768 by the trustees of the Harper charity, with an inscription recording their benefactions. On the south wall of the nave is painted a recumbent figure of king Charles the First under an open canopy, by the side of which are inscribed some very indifferent lines, alluding to his trial and execution.

The pulpit is of stone, ornamented with gilt tracery, on a blue ground.

In the church-yard is the tomb of a couple, "Shadrach and Patience Johnson," who had 24 children.

The benefice of this church is an endowed vicarage, in the gift of Lord Carteret. Thomas Christie esq. being possessed of the great tithes, gave them, in the year 1697, to the vicar and his successors, charged with the payment of a shilling each weekly, to eight poor persons, in the alms-houses built by him.

The churches of St. Peter and St. Cuthbert contain nothing remarkable. In the church-yard of the former is the tomb of Mr. Aspinall, a rector of that parish, who assisted the learned Dr. Castell in his laborious researches in the Oriental languages. The churches of St. Peter (called St. Peter Martin, to distinguish it from another church of the same name, formerly on the south side of the river) and St. Cuthbert, are both rectories in the gift of the crown.

The parishes of St. Paul, St. Peter, and St. Cuthbert, were inclosed by an act of parliament passed in 1795, when allotments of land in lieu of tithes were assigned to the several persons entitled to them.

The churches of St. Mary and St. John contain nothing remarkable. The latter, as before-mentioned, is annexed to the hospital of that name, and is considered as a rectory, of which the corporation have the patronage. St. Mary's is a rectory in the patronage of the bishop of Lincoln. The parish of St. Mary has been inclosed by an act of parliament passed in 1797, when an allotment of land was made to the rector in lieu of tithes. It was computed that there were then about 400 acres belonging to this parish lying in open fields. The rector of St. John's was entitled to the tithes of about twelve acres of land in this parish, for which an allotment was also made.

In the register of this parish are entries of the burial of three nuns of Elstow, "dame Ann Preston, dame Elizabeth Fox, and dame Elizabeth Napier," who died in 1557 and 1558.

Opposite to St. Mary's church, where is now a void space, stood formerly a church called St. Peter's Dunstable, which before the year 1400 was a separate parish :

parish: it was afterwards annexed to St. Mary's, the service being performed at each on alternate weeks, and the books and ornaments removed from one church to the other. In 1545 the parishioners were permitted by Sir Edward North, chancellor of the Augmentations, to pull down St. Peter's church, on condition of their using such materials as were not wanted, for the repairs of St. Mary's (to which they had then lately added a new aisle) in mending the streets, and repairing the bridge.

The old Independent meeting-house in Mill-lane was originally established in 1650, under the ministry of John Gifford, who had been a major in king Charles's army*. The celebrated John Bunyan was ordained co-pastor of this congregation with Samuel Fenn in 1671, and continued in that situation till his death in 1688^y. His memory is much revered by the congregation; and the chair in which he used to sit is preserved as a kind of relick in the vestry. On the wall of the cemetery is a tablet to the memory of his great-grand-daughter, with an epitaph, which states, that he exercised his ministry in and about Bedford for thirty-two years, during which time he suffered twelve years imprisonment. The present meeting-house was built in 1707. The congregation are a mixture of baptists and pædo-baptists. They have a baptistery for adults under their communion table, in the centre of the meeting, for such as disapprove of infant baptism. In 1772, some members of this congregation formed themselves into a separate society, and built a new meeting-house, not far from the old one, in the same lane. The members of the new meeting are pædo-baptists.

The Moravians, or society of *Unitas fratrum*, have had an establishment at Bedford ever since the year 1745. They have a neat chapel built in 1751. Adjoining it are houses for the single brethren and sisters, who respectively live in community. In the sisters' house are nearly forty single women, who are employed in working tambour. Behind the chapel is a cemetery, in which is a memorial of one of their bishops. It is kept extremely neat, in four compartments: the tombstones are all flat, small, and uniform, as in their burial-ground at Chelsea.

The free-school at Bedford was founded by Sir William Harper, alderman of London, for the instruction of children of the town in grammar and good manners. The letters patent bear date 1552, the founder's deed 1566. The school-house, conveyed by that deed to the corporation, had been built by Sir William Harper between those periods. It was rebuilt by the trustees in 1767, when a statue of the founder was placed in the front. The warden and fellows of New College in Oxford are visitors of the school, and appoint the master and usher, or second master.

* Printed account of the rise and progress of this meeting, annexed to a Funeral Sermon.

^y Ibid.

The master's salary, under the last act for regulating the Bedford charities, is 26*ol.* with coals and candles; that of the second master 16*ol.*, with the like perquisites. Under the same act, the writing-master has a salary of 8*ol. per annum.* The present head-master is the Rev. John Hook, B. C. L.; the second master, Charles Abbot, D.D.

Sir William Harper, when he founded the free-school at Bedford, conveyed to the corporation thirteen acres of land in the parish of St. Andrew Holborn, for its support, and for the marriage of poor maidens of this town; the overplus, if any, to be given in alms to the poor. This land having been let on building leases, Lamb's Conduit-street, Theobald's-road, Bedford-street, Bedford-row, and some lesser streets were built on it; the rents were in consequence advanced to 15*ol. per annum*; and when the greater part of the leases fell in, which happened about the year 1763, they were advanced to nearly 3000*ol. per annum!* The trustees then applied to parliament for an act to regulate the disposal of this noble income, which was accordingly obtained: but some of the regulations having been productive of inconvenience to the town, a new act was procured in 1792; at which time other leases having nearly expired, the estates were about to experience a further advance of almost 1000*ol. per annum.* The trustees were made a body corporate by the act of 1764. By the last act they are to consist of the lord lieutenant and the two members for the county, the members for the town, the corporation of Bedford, and eighteen other elective inhabitants. The estates now produce about 5800*ol. per annum.* A farther increase is very soon expected, and at a future period they will be capable of much greater improvement.

Under the last act, three exhibitions of 40*ol. per annum* each are given to scholars from the free-school, either at Oxford or Cambridge, during the space of six years. The sum to be appropriated for marriage-portions is fixed at 800*ol. per annum*, to be given by lot in portions of 20*ol.* each to forty poor maidens of Bedford, of good fame and reputation, not under sixteen years of age, and not exceeding fifty. They must marry within two months after drawing the fortunate lots, otherwise they forfeit the portion. The men to whom they are to be married must not be vagrants, or persons of bad fame or reputation. At a future opportunity, it is probable that the trustees will procure some farther regulations to be made respecting the husbands, since the object of the donation, which is intended to settle a poor couple comfortably in life, is so often defeated by the maidens marrying soldiers belonging to marching regiments quartered in Bedford; the almost inevitable consequence of which is, that the portion is no sooner received than dissipated, and it not unfrequently happens that the women return, after a time, with orphan families, and, unable to prove their husbands' settlements, become heavy burdens to the town.

If,

If, for want of a sufficient number of applications, there should be any overplus of the 800*l.* appropriated annually for marriage-portions, it is to be given to poor women of good fame and reputation, who have lived five successive years in service in the town of Bedford, and have been married within the preceding year.

The act appropriates the sum of 300*l. per annum* for the support of twenty-six boys in a hospital or school of industry, and 700*l.* to be laid out in apprentice-fees for fifteen poor boys and five girls, to be chosen by lot. Alms-houses have been built also, pursuant to the directions of the act, for ten poor men and the same number of women. The weekly allowance to each is 3*s.*, and 4*s.* annually for clothing. If a poor man and his wife live together, they are allowed to the amount of 5*s.* a week. The sum of 100*l. per annum* was appropriated to be given in sums of 5*l.* each to twenty poor girls at their going out to service. The residue, after providing for the above-mentioned purposes as expressed in the act, is to be laid out in building and endowing more alms-houses, or building cottages, to be let at low rents to the poor.

If another opportunity should offer, upon the expected farther increase of the charity estates, of making any change in the present regulations, or any new disposition of the additional fund, the trustees would find the plan of Mr. Raine's charities, in the parish of St. George in the East, Middlesex, not unworthy their notice, particularly his hospital for girls. Mr. Raine gave two annual marriage-portions of 100*l.* each, to be drawn for by six of the most deserving young women of the age of twenty-two or upwards, who had been educated in his hospital. The husbands must be of the church of England, and inhabitants of the parish of St. George in the East, or either of two adjoining parishes. If such a regulation should be thought too limited, it might perhaps remedy the inconvenience complained of at Bedford, if the maidens portioned by Sir William Harper's charity were restricted to marrying inhabitants of their own town or county.

A charity-school for twenty children of the parishes of St. Paul and St. Cuthbert, was founded by the Rev. Mr. Leith and others, before the year 1737.

Thomas Christie esq. built, in his life-time, an alms-house for eight poor persons, to whom he bequeathed one shilling each weekly, payable out of the great tithes of St. Paul's.

The house of industry at Bedford, a large and handsome brick-building to the north of the town, was begun in the year 1794, and finished in 1796. It is fitted up with every useful accommodation; and great attention has been paid to the health as well as comfort and convenience of the inhabitants. In point of œconomical contrivance, perhaps, it is inferior to some buildings of a like nature. A manufacture of flannel has been established in this house on an extensive scale; it is in a
flourishing

flourishing state; and the good effects of the institution begin to be felt in the reduction of the poor's rates.

A general infirmary for the county has been lately erected in St. Mary's parish. The late Mr. Whitbread bequeathed 4000*l.* towards the structure, (which was aided by donations from the nobility and principal gentry of the county, particularly the duke of Bedford, the earl of Ossory, and the present Mr. Whitbread,) and another sum of 4000*l.* towards its endowment, which is farther provided for by the interest of various smaller donations, and by annual subscriptions. The infirmary was opened for the reception of patients on the 13th of August 1803; it is now completely finished, and ready for the reception of 38 in-patients, which is its full complement.

BIDDENHAM, a small village on the Ouse, about two miles west of Bedford, is in the hundred of Willey. The manor, at the time of the Norman survey, belonged to William Spec, ancestor of Walter de Espec, founder of Warden Abbey. It was afterwards in the earls of Gloucester and Stafford^z; under whom, as lords of the fee, it seems to have been held for several generations by the St. Johns, who were in possession of it till 1582^a, and perhaps later. It is now the property of the Right Hon. Lord Hampden, in whose family it has been for nearly a century. In the church are several memorials for the family of Boteler, who were settled at Biddenham for ten generations^b. Sir William Boteler, of this family, was Lord Mayor of London in 1515. There was a chantry in this church dedicated to St. William; and the chantry of Biddenham Bridge, which had a considerable endowment in lands^c, charged probably with the repairs of the bridge which leads from Bedford to the north of Buckinghamshire, and is now known by the name of Bromham Bridge. The great tithes, which were appropriated to the priory of Denny, in Cambridgeshire, are now the property of Lord Hampden. He is patron also of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Bedford.

BIGGLESWADE, in the hundred of that name, and in the deanery of Shefford, is a considerable market town, 45 miles from London, situated on the great road to York, and on the banks of the Ivel. The market is held on Wednesdays, by what charter does not appear on record, but it is probable that it was granted to some of the bishops of Lincoln, to which see the manor was annexed by Henry I. in 1132^d. Bishop Holbeach surrendered it to Edward VI. in 1547. It is now

^z Esch. Edw. III. and Rich. II. ^a Collins's Peerage—Article Bolingbroke.

^b Pedigrees Brit. Mus. ^c Chantry Roll in the Augmentation Office.

^d Dugdale's Monasticon, Vol. iii.

held on lease under the crown by the Right Honourable Lord Carteret, in whose family it has been for a considerable time.

In 1785, this town sustained great damage by a fire, which consumed about 120 houses. The number of houses in the parish, (including Stratton and Holme,) according to the returns made to Parliament under the Population Act, in 1801, was 317; that of the inhabitants, 1794.

There are five annual fairs at Biggleswade; February 13, Saturday in Easter week, Trinity Monday, August 2, and November 8.

The parish church is a handsome Gothic structure. The chancel was rebuilt about the year 1467, by John Ruding archdeacon of Bedford, whose arms are to be seen under the seats of some ancient wooden stalls in the north aisle. He died in 1481, and lies buried in the chancel. A plate of his tomb (from which his effigies in brass has been removed) is to be seen in Gough's Sepulchral Monuments. The rectory, to which the advowson of the vicarage is annexed, is the corps of a prebend in the church of Lincoln.

The manor of *Stratton*, a hamlet in this parish, now the seat of Charles Barnett esq. was, at the time of the Norman survey, the property of Ralph de Lisle. It was afterwards successively in the Latimers^f, Nevils, and Enderbys. Francis Pigott became possessed of it by marrying Eleanor, the daughter and heir of John Enderby who died in 1509^g. The Pigotts had been settled at Stratton long before, and had served the office of sheriff of the counties of Bedford and Bucks so early as the year 1408. About the latter end of the sixteenth century, Stratton became the property of the Anderfons of Eyworth. Edmund, the eldest son of Sir Francis Anderfon, left an only daughter, Dorothy, an infant, who became the wife of Sir John Cotton bart. the munificent donor of the valuable Cottonian Library, which had been collected by his grandfather. This national treasure, we are told, was, during the civil wars in the reign of King Charles I. preserved at Stratton, whither it had been removed, for greater security, from Connington, the ancient seat of the Cottons^h. Sir John Cotton, the last heir male of this family, died in 1752. Stratton was purchased of his representatives in 1764, by the trustees of Mr. Barnett's father, Curtis Barnett esq. who died, in 1746, at Fort St. David, on the coast of Coromandel, being commander in chief of his Majesty's ships on that station. About 300 rose-nobles of Henry V. and VI. were found by a plowman, in 1770, upon the site of the old mansion. There was anciently a chapel at Stratton, mentioned in records of the reign of Edward III.ⁱ The manor of Holme-cum-Langford, the greater part of which is in this parish, belongs

^f Esch. Edw. II.—Hen. VI.

^g Cole's Escheats, and Bedfordshire Pedigrees, Brit Mus.

^h Stukeley's Itin. Curios.

ⁱ Mr. Stratton's papers.

to the dean and chapter of Westminster. Lord Spencer has most of the landed property in the hamlet of Holme.

Sir John Cotton bart. who died in 1752, by his will bearing date 1726, founded a charity school at Stratton, for the instruction of twelve poor children of the parish of Biggleswade; and having devised the sum of 1800*l.* to be laid out in lands for charitable purposes, directed that two-ninths of the rents should be appropriated as a salary for the master of this school, who is to be nominated, from time to time, by the lord of the manor of Stratton. The estate purchased pursuant to the donor's intention, was the lay rectory of Flitwick in this county. The proportion paid out of the present rent, to the master of this school, is 14*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.* Sir John Cotton's will gives a proportion of one-ninth of the said rents, now 7*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.* to the vicar of Biggleswade.

Edward Peake esq. of Southill, in the year 1557, founded a school at Holme, for teaching eight poor boys of the parish of Biggleswade, English, writing, and accounts; and endowed it with a rent-charge of 13*l.* *per annum*, and a house at Holme, valued at 2*l.* 3*s.* *per annum*. These schools are at present under the same master.

BLETSOE, in the hundred of Willey, and deanery of Clopham, is a small village about six miles north-west of Bedford, on the road to Higham Ferrers. The manor, at the time of the Norman survey, was part of the large possessions of Hugh de Beauchamp; it was afterwards in the family of Patfhill. Mabel Patfhill, lady of this manor, founded the monastery of Grey Friars at Bedford, in the reign of Edward the First. In 1327, John de Patefhill obtained the king's licence for embattling his mansion at Bletsoe^k. In 1344 he was summoned to parliament as a baron. Sir Roger de Beauchamp, chamberlain to King Edward the Third, having married his eldest daughter, on a partition of the estates after the death of a son who died without issue, became possessed of this manor, made it his chief seat, and was summoned to parliament in 1373 as baron Beauchamp of Bletsoe. Margaret his grand-daughter, who, on failure of male issue, became his sole heir, married Sir Oliver St. John, a descendant of the ancient family of St. John of Basing, who were already possessed of large estates in Bedfordshire, inherited by a female heir, from the Pavelys^l. Her second husband was John Beaufort, duke of Somerset, by whom she had one daughter, Margaret, the wife of Edmund Tudor, Earl of Richmond and mother of king Henry VII. This illustrious lady, who was foundress of St. John's and Christ's Colleges in Cambridge, is said to have been born at Bletsoe. That her mother, the duchess of Somerset, resided there in great state,

^k Pat. 1. Edw. III.

^l Collin's Peerage.

may be collected from the epitaph of Ralph Lannoy, formerly in Bletfoe church. He died in 1458, and is styled cofferer and keeper of the wardrobe to the most noble Margaret duchess of Somersset, then married to a third husband, Leo Lord Welles. Sir Oliver St. John's descendant of the same name, was, in 1559, created Lord St. John of Bletfoe. Oliver, the fourth baron, was, in 1624, advanced to the title of Earl of Bolingbroke. The earldom became extinct in 1711. The barony devolved to the posterity of Sir Rowland St. John, a younger son of Oliver Lord St. John, the third baron; and is now enjoyed by his immediate descendant, Henry Beauchamp, Lord St. John, to whom the manor of Bletfoe still belongs. The greater part of the mansion has been long ago pulled down; what remains is converted into a farm house. It appears to have formed one side of a large quadrangular building, of the style of architecture which prevailed in the early part of the seventeenth century. Vestiges of the ancient castellated mansion are plainly discernible near the house.

In the north aisle of the parish church, which is the burial-place of the noble family of St. John, there is a monument, with the effigies of a knight in armour, and his lady; intended for Sir John St. John, father of Oliver, the first Lord St. John, whom he lived to see created a peer. The word *matertera* in the epitaph must be understood to mean *great aunt*; the inscription cannot apply to the father of this Sir John, who was, properly speaking, the nephew of Margaret countess of Richmond: since we find by the *probate* of his will, that *he* died in 1525. It appears by the following inscription, that the countess of Richmond brought him up with her grandson King Henry VIII.; who made him guardian of his daughters, the princesses Mary and Elizabeth; and that he died in the office of chamberlain to the latter, when queen.

“ Infans, vir, senior, semper clarissimus Heros :
 Principibus puerum primis eduxit ab annis
 Richmundæ Comitissæ, sui matertera alumni,
 Inde vir effectus, Regis pervenit ad aulam
 Henrici Octavi, geminas hoc tempore natus
 Rex habuit quibus ambabus lectissimus heros
 Huic datus est custos, datus est camerarius illi.
 O quoties illius opem bello Anglia sensit ;
 Nunc vesana fremit Lincolnia, nunc fremit ingens
 Gallia bis hujus notâ virtute subacta ;
 Mota sub Edwardo pendit Norfolkia sexto,
 Mittitur huc inter procures ; quos inter & omnes
 Vel fuit hic primus, vel nulli Marte secundus.
 Denique jam Senis saturatus honoribus annis,
 Reginæ electus camerarius Elizabethæ,
 Occidit & prolem similem virtute reliquit.”

In the same aisle is the monument of Frances, countess of Bolingbroke (daughter of William Duke of Newcastle). The patronage of the rectory is vested in Lord St. John.

BLUNHAM, a small village in the hundred of Wixamtree, and deanery of Shefford, about eight miles nearly east of Bedford, had formerly a market on Wednesdays, and a fair at the festival of St. James, granted, in 1315, to John Lord Hastings^m. The manor was anciently in the Valences, earls of Pembroke, from whom it descended by female heirs to the noble families of Hastings and Grey; and is now the property of their representative, the Right Honourable Lady Lucas.

Charles Grey, earl of Kent, resided at the manor-house of Blunham, (now a farm,) and died there in 1625, as appears by his epitaph in Flitton church. In the parish church at Blunham, is the monument of Lady Susan Longueville, his daughter and heir, who carried the barony of Grey of Ruthin into the family of Longueville, afterwards earls of Suffex. There are some memorials also of the Longuevilles, and of the family of Bromfall; one of whom served the office of sheriff of the county in 1650, and was instrumental in preserving the Cottonian library, then deposited at Stratton, during the civil war. The rectory of Blunham is in the patronage of Lady Lucas.

The manor of *Mogerhanger*, a hamlet in this parish, was anciently in the Trompetons or Trompingtonsⁿ. It was afterwards in the noble family of Ferrars of Groby^o; and is now the property and seat of Godfrey Thornton esq. who has also the manors of Chalton and South Mills, in this parish; all of which he inherited from his uncle the late Richard Astell esq. of Everton. Mrs. Campbell, relict of the late Colonel Campbell, deputy-governor of Chelsea Hospital, has a seat in this parish, formerly belonging to the Bromfalls, who, it is supposed, were possessed of the estates which are now the property of Mr. Thornton.

The parish of Blunham has been inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1796, when an allotment of land was assigned to the rector in lieu of tithes, excepting those of Mogerhanger, which were allotted to Mr. Thornton, and a corn rent assigned in lieu of them to the rector.

BOLNHURST, in the hundred of Stodden, and deanery of Eaton, is about eight miles north-east of Bedford. The manor belonged to the family of St. John, as early as the reign of Edward III. and continued their property so lately as the 17th century. It was afterwards in the Fleetwoods and Churchills; of the latter of

^m Cart. 8. Edw. II.

ⁿ Esch. Edw. I. Edw. III.

^o Esch. Ric. II.

whom

whom it was purchased about the year 1780 by the present proprietors, Jacob Turner, John Caldecot, and Samuel Wyatt. The manor of Maverns and Glin-tells (in this parish, and Great Barford), now the property of John Franklin esq. has been in his family for more than two centuries. George Franklin esq. of Maverns, was sheriff of the county in 1600. Maverns has long ceased to be the family-seat; they resided afterwards at Great Barford, and are now removed out of the county. In the parish church is the monument of Sir John Franklin, one of the masters in chancery, who died in 1707, and several other memorials of the family. The advowson of the rectory was formerly vested in Thorney abbey, to which two-thirds of the great tithes, now in lay hands, were appropriated. The rector has the remaining third of so much of the parish as was comprised in the inclosure, which took place by act of parliament in 1778^p. The advowson is now vested in the Rev. Mr. Dolling the present incumbent.

BROMHAM, in the hundred of Willey and deanery of Clopham, is a small village situated on the banks of the Ouse about three miles from Bedford, near the road to Newport Pagnell. The manor was, at the time of the Norman survey, part of the large property of Hugh de Beauchamp, and upon the extinction of the male line of his family, became divided into severalties, which passed through the families of Munchensi, Tyes, Moubray, Boteler, Wake, Latimer, and Nevil^q. It appears to have been again united in the 16th century. Sir John Dyve, who died in 1607, inherited it by female descent from the family of Wylde. His son, Sir Lewis Dyve, was a distinguished officer on the king's side, during the civil war. It was purchased of the Dyves about the year 1707 by Sir Thomas Trevor, who, in 1711, was created a peer by the title of Baron Trevor of Bromham; and it is now the property of his descendant, the Right Hon. Thomas Hampden Trevor, Viscount Hampden.

The manor-house, although small and inconvenient, and from its situation near the Ouse liable to frequent floods, was for many years a country-seat of the noble family of Trevor. The late Viscount Hampden frequently resided there. The pointed door-way at the entrance appears to have belonged to a much more ancient mansion. In the hall are several family portraits, among which are those of Sir Richard Trevor, a distinguished naval and military officer, knighted in the field by Queen Elizabeth; Sir Richard Trevor of Placetage, a fine picture in the style of Cornelius Jansen; Sir John Trevor of Trevallyn; Sir Thomas Trevor, chief baron of the exchequer; and Thomas, the

^p Allotments of land were assigned to the lord of the manor and the rector for such parts as were then inclosed.

^q Dugdale's Baronage, and various Escheats.

first Lord Trevor. There is a portrait also of Lord Chief Justice Dyer, and a few others.

In the chancel of the parish church is a very handsome monument of the first Lord Trevor, an eminent lawyer, who had been Lord Chief Justice of the common pleas, and at the time of his death, in 1730, was Lord Privy-Seal and President of the Council. There is a handsome monument also of John, the third Lord Trevor, who died in 1764, by Prince Hoare. On the chancel floor are the figures, in brass, of Sir John Dyve, his mother, who was heiress of Thomas Wylde, lord of the manor of Bromham, and his wife Isabel, daughter and heir of Sir Ralph Hastings. In the north aisle is a handsome monument, with the effigies of a man in armour, lying under a canopy supported by Ionic columns, which, from the arms, appears to be that of John Dyve esq. who married a Walcot. The rectory of Bromham belonged to the monastery of Caldwell near Bedford, and was granted by King Edward VI. to Eton college, together with the advowson of the vicarage^r.

CADDINGTON, in the hundred of Manhead and deanery of Dunstable, lies about two miles from Luton. The church, with about a fifth of the parish, is in Bedfordshire; the remainder in the adjoining county of Herts. The manor of Caddington Bury has been in the church of St. Paul ever since the latter end of the eleventh century. In Edward the Confessor's time it was held under the crown^s. The dean and chapter of St. Paul's have also the impropriation of the great tithes, and are patrons of the vicarage. Two prebendal estates in the same church, known by the names of Caddington Major, and Caddington Minor, are in this parish. William Beckford esq. who is lessee of the rectory under the church of St. Paul, has an estate in this parish called the manor of Zouches, which was anciently in the families of Cantelupe and Zouch, and seems to have passed through the same hands as the manor of Eaton-Bray.

On the Hertfordshire side of the parish is *Market Cell*, the site of a nunnery of the Benedictine order, founded by Geoffrey abbot of St. Alban's, about the year 1145^t. We are told, that Humphrey, a natural son of Lord Berners, bestowed much cost and art in building a house on this site, but did not live to finish it^u. It was after this, in 1548, granted to George Ferrers^w, whose descendant Sir John Ferrers died seised of it in 1640^x. After this it was for a considerable time the seat of the family of Coppin, of whom there are some memorials in the parish church of Caddington. The site of this monastery, together with the manor of Markyate, are now the property and seat of Joseph Howell esq. The manor of

^r Records in the Augmentation Office.

^s Dugdale's Monast. Vol. iii.

^t Tanner.

^u Dugdale's Baronage, Vol. ii.

^w Tanner.

^x Cole's Escheats, Brit. Mus.

Humbershoe, partly in Bedfordshire and partly in Herts, lying within the parishes of Caddington and Studham, was also in the families of Ferrers^y and Coppin, and was sold a few years ago by J. Pitman Coppin esq. to John Lambert esq. of whom it was purchased in 1802, by Mr. William Shone.

Market-street, on the road from London to Dunstable, is in the parishes of Caddington and Studham. In the former parish, and in the county of Herts, is a chapel of ease, founded by John Coppin esq. which by an act of parliament, passed in the year 1741, was made a perpetual cure and benefice. The parish of Caddington has been inclosed by a late act of parliament: an allotment of land was assigned to the impropiator in lieu of tithes, and an allotment of 20 acres to the vicar, exclusive of his glebe, together with a corn-rent equivalent to his farther interest. The vicar was entitled to the tithes of hay and wood. The parish was estimated to contain 2000 acres.

CAMPTON, anciently called CAMELTON, is a small village in the hundred of Clifton, about a mile from Shefford. The manor of Camelton-cum-Shefford was, at a remote period, in the noble family of Lisle^z. Sir John de Lisle, who died seised of it in 1356, was one of the original knights companions of the garter. These Lisles appear to have been a distinct family from the Lisles of Kingston Lisle in Berkshire^a, whose heiress married into the noble family of Berkeley. It is probable, that on some attainder or failure of issue, their estates fell to the crown. The manor of Camelton-cum-Shefford became annexed to the honour of Ampt-hill; and as parcel of that honour was for many years on lease to the Bruces earls of Elgin and Aylebury; the lease is now vested in the Duke of Bedford, whose ancestor purchased it of the earl of Aylebury in 1738.

The site of the manor of Campton was granted in 1548 to Sir Thomas Palmer^b. The capital mansion on it became the property and seat of the Ventris family. Sir Charles Ventris, in the year 1645, very narrowly escaped assassination at this house. The circumstance is recorded in the following inscription, still preserved on a pannel, which having received the contents of a musket-shot has never been repaired.

“In the year 1645, Sir Charles Ventris knight banneret, created by king Charles for his bravery in the civil wars, was (in the night time) by Oliver’s party, shot at, as he was walking in this room, but happily missed him.” This house and the estate belonging to it were purchased of Sir Charles Ventris Field knight, representative of the Ventris family, by Sir George Osborn bart. of Chicksand. The house is now occupied as a school.

^y Cole’s Escheats, Brit. Mus.

^z Esch. Edw. I.—Edw. III.

^a Dugdale’s Baronage.

^b Pat. 2. Edw. VI.

In the parish church is a *Columbarium* for the Osborn family ; and in the aisle, above, are the monuments of Sir John and Sir Peter Osborn (successively lord treasurers remembrancers) put up in 1653, by Henry Osborn, younger son of Sir Peter, afterwards Sir Henry Osborn knt. and one of the commissioners of the navy. The rectory of Campton-cum-Shefford is in the patronage of Sir George Osborn bart. The parish has been inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1797, when an allotment of land, not exceeding 100 acres, was given to the rector in part of compensation for his interest in the tithes, and a corn-rent charged on lands belonging to Sir George Osborn for the remainder.

Shefford, a post-town 10 miles from Bedford on the road to London, is a chapelry within this parish, and gives name to the deanery, in which it is situated. It lies between two brooks, which unite their streams not far from the town, and fall into the Ivel. Till of late years Shefford had a market on Fridays. It has still four fairs, held on the 23d of January, Easter Monday, the 19th of May, and the 10th of October ; the two first are considerable marts for sheep and cows ; the last, which is now a holiday-fair, was granted in the reign of Edward II. to Robert de Lisle, and originally lasted for six days. The number of houses in the town, according to the returns made to parliament in 1801, under the Population Act, was 90, of inhabitants 474. The chapel is a small mean building : it may be considered, perhaps, as some excuse for its present state, that the inhabitants are not only bound to repair their chapel, but to contribute also to the repairs of the mother church. They have distinct officers and maintain their own poor. The Roman Catholics have a chapel in the town, endowed with an annual stipend left in trust for that purpose ; Sir John Throckmorton being the present trustee. Robert Lucas, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, bequeathed some houses and lands for the purpose of keeping in repair the bridges, roads, and causeways, in the town of Shefford ; the remainder to be given to the poor.

CARDINGTON, a very neat village, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles south-east of Bedford, is in the hundred of Wixamtree. The manor belonged to the Beauchamps, and was parcel of their barony of Bedford. After the death of the last heir male of that family it became divided, and seems to have formed separate manors, which passed to the families of Munchensi, Wake, Pigott, Botetort, Latimer, and Nevil^c. James Gascoigne, son of the celebrated Chief Justice by his second wife, settled at Cardington in the reign of Henry VI. and became possessed of a manor, which seems to have been the principal manor, by marrying the heiress of Pigott ; his grand-

^c Esch. Edw. I.—Ed. IV.

son, Sir William, who twice served the office of sheriff of the counties of Bedford and Buckingham, was comptroller of the household to Cardinal Wolsey. On each side of the altar in Cardington church is a monument with an open arch, in the Gothic style, but of no very ancient date. That on the south side is in memory of one of the Gascoignes, perhaps Sir William Gascoigne, grandfather of John Gascoigne, the last heir male of the family: the other is the monument of Sir Gerrard Hervey, of the Thurleigh family, who died in 1638. This Sir Gerrard, who was knighted by the Earl of Essex for his bravery at the siege of Cadiz, he being the first man who entered the town^d, possessed a temporary interest in the manor of Cardington, of which in his epitaph he is called Lord, by marrying one of the co-heiresses of John Gascoigne. The manor afterwards became the property of Sir George Blundell, who married the other co-heiresses. George Blundell esq. of Cardington manor, served the office of sheriff in 1731. The manor was purchased of his representatives by the late Mr. Whitbread, and is now the property of his son Samuel Whitbread esq. M. P. who has the manor also of Cardington-Cotton-end, which, it is probable, belonged anciently to some of the co-heirs of the Beauchamps: in the reign of Queen Elizabeth it was in the families of Tamworth and Colby. The late Mr. Whitbread purchased it of the Rev. Mr. Bedford, who inherited under the will of his grandfather's widow.

The manor of *Fenlake* or *Fenlake-Barns* is also the property of Mr. Whitbread, who occasionally resides at the manor-house called the Barns.

In the parish church of Cardington, is a tablet in memory of the celebrated John Howard, who fell a victim to his exertions in the cause of philanthropy, being seized with the plague at Cherfon in Tartary, where he died January 21, 1794. He resided for some years at Cardington, in a house near the church-yard, and in 1773 served the office of sheriff for the county. The late Samuel Whitbread esq. whose name stands high in the list of those who have been distinguished for works of benevolence and public utility, has a very splendid monument to his memory in Cardington church. It was put up in 1799, being the last work of the deceased statuary Bacon, and esteemed one of his best. The principal figure represents Mr. Whitbread as a dying man, supported by religion, who points to the glories of heaven: benevolence is weeping at his feet. There are some other monuments of the Whitbread family, who first settled at Cardington in 1650, and memorials of the Blundells of whom the late Mr. Whitbread purchased the manor.

The great tithes of Cardington were appropriated to the priory of Newenham, and are now vested in the master and scholars of Trinity College in Cambridge,

^d Bedfordshire Pedigrees, Brit. Mus.

under whom Mr. Whitbread is lessee. The college presents to the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Bedford. The parish has been inclosed by an act of parliament passed in 1802: the lands were not exonerated from tithes. The parish was then computed to contain 3000 acres.

CARLTON, a village on the borders of Buckinghamshire, about a mile from Harold, is in the hundred of Willey and deanery of Clopham. The manor belonged at an early period to the family of Pabenham^c, who had large possessions in this county. In the year 1313, John de Pabenham had a licence to impark his woods in this parish and Harold, being within the King's forest^f. The manor was afterwards in the family of Vaux. On the attainder of William Lord Vaux, it was granted by King Edward IV. to Ralph Hastings^g, whose daughter and heir married Sir John Dyve. It has been for a considerable time in the family of Alston, and is now the property of Thomas Alston esq.

The following epitaph in the parish church, records a very remarkable instance of long incumbency. "To the memory of Mr. Thomas Wills, who lived parson of Carlton and Chellington about threescore and ten years. He died the second of August 1642, aged above an hundred." The rectories of Carlton and Chillington, which were consolidated by act of parliament in 1769, are in the patronage of Lord Hampden.

CHALGRAVE, in the hundred of Manshead and deanery of Dunstable, is a village about a mile from Toddington. A manor in Chalgrave was held under the Beauchamps, in the 12th century, by the family of Loring^h. Sir Nigel or Neale Loring, who was knighted by King Edward III. for his bravery in a sea-fight at Sluys in 1340, who attended that monarch in his glorious campaign in France, in the year 1359, and was one of the knights companions of the garter at the original institution of that orderⁱ, retired to spend his latter days at Chalgrave, where, in 1365, he had the royal licence to inclose a park^k. This Sir Neale Loring was founder of a chantry in Chalgrave church. Two ancient altar tombs (one on each side the nave), with effigies in stone of knights in armour with mail gorgets, have been supposed to belong to some of this family; but it must be observed, that none of the shields, of which there are several on the tombs, exhibit the arms of Loring. This manor was afterwards in the Broughtons, and passed by heirs female to the Cheneys and Wentworths. It is now vested in the trustees of their representative, the late Rt. Hon. Thomas Conolly^l.

^c Esch. H. III.—Edw. III. ^f Pat. 6 Edw. II. ^g Pat. 4 Edw. II. ^h Chron. Dunst.

ⁱ Ashmole's Institution of the Garter. ^k Cart. 39 & 40 Ed. III.

^l See the descent more particularly described in Toddington.

The mercers' company have also a manor in this parish, and Richard Gilpin esq. of Hockliffe has the manor of *Wingfield* (a hamlet of Chalgrave), which has been a considerable time in his family.

The church was appropriated, in the 12th century, to the priory of Dunstaple, by Rose Loring, with consent of Simon de Beauchamp, the lord paramount^m. The rectory now belongs to Trinity-Hall in Cambridge. Mr. Gilpin is patron of the vicarage. The parish has been inclosed by an act of parliament passed in 1797, when allotments of land were given in lieu of the rectorial and vicarial tithes. The number of acres in the parish was then estimated to be about 1780.

Tebworth, a considerable hamlet in this parish, had formerly a chapel endowed with 36 acres of land. The inhabitants in 1277 endeavoured, but without success, to oblige the prior and convent of Dunstaple, in whom the rectory and advowson of Chalgrave were then vested, and who were in possession of the lands which formed the endowment, to provide a chaplain to celebrate divine service in Tebworth chapelⁿ. There have been no remains of this chapel within the memory of man.

CHICKSAND, an extraparochial place in the hundred of Clifton, about a mile from Shefford, was the site of a priory, founded about the year 1150, by Pain de Beauchamp and Roese his wife, relict of Geoffrey de Mandeville, founder of Walden Abbey, for nuns and canons of the order of St. Gilbert of Sempringham^o. So anxious was this good lady to promote the interests of her favourite convent, that when her son Geoffrey de Mandeville, Earl of Essex, whose patronage and benefactions she had in vain endeavoured to induce him to transfer from his father's monastery of Walden to Chicksand, died at Chester, she being then residing at this convent with her nuns, sent an armed troop to intercept his corpse on its way to Walden for interment, and forcibly convey it to be buried at Chicksand, to which monastery she hoped his kindred would by that means be induced to become benefactors; but her intention being made known to the knights, who were to attend the body, they provided themselves with a sufficient guard, and with their swords drawn, conveyed it safe to Walden^p. Simon de Beauchamp, son of Pain, gave the church of Chicksand to the nuns there, and John Blondel, in 1317, the manor^q. The priory was dissolved in 1538, when its clear yearly value was estimated at 212l. 3s. 5½d.^r. The site was granted in 1539 to R. Snow, of whose family it was purchased, about the year 1600^s, by Sir John Osborn

^m Chron. Dunst. ⁿ Ibid. ^o Tanner. ^p Dugdale's Baronage. ^q Tanner. ^r Ibid.

^s From the information of Sir George Osborn.

knt. Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer, whose grandson of the same name was created a baronet in 1660.

Chickfand priory is now the property and seat of General Sir George Osborn bart. It retains much of the monastic appearance, and exhibits considerable remains of the conventual buildings. The south and east fronts were either rebuilt or altered about the middle of the last century by Ware the architect. Two sides of the cloisters are nearly entire. Sir George Osborn has fitted up the windows with ancient stained glass, and has deposited, in the cloisters, various antiquities, which have no immediate connection with the place, excepting two ancient tombs, dug up near the priory. In one of the walls is placed the tomb of an abbot of Pipwell, brought from the site of that monastery in Northamptonshire. A part of the building, now used as a chapel, and some adjoining offices, have stone roofs, vaulted and groined. The quadrangle within the cloisters is 64 feet by 51 feet 6 inches.

Chickfand-house contains some valuable portraits, particularly of the Osborn family: the most remarkable of which are those of Peter Osborn, Privy Purse to Edward VI. and one of the commissioners for ecclesiastical affairs in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; Sir Peter Osborn, governor of Jersey; Francis Osborn, a younger son of Sir John Osborn knt. an ingenious and entertaining writer, author of *Advice to a Son*, and *Essays on King James and King Charles*; Col. Henry Osborn, killed at the battle of Naseby; and Henry Osborn, a distinguished naval officer, who died in 1771, vice-admiral of Great Britain. Among the portraits, not connected with the family are, Sir Philip Warwick and his lady; a fine whole length of Edward VI. by Holbein; and a very valuable portrait of Oliver Cromwell, by Sir Peter Lely. It is a fine picture, and exhibits the strong features of his countenance, with all the roughnesses and warts, which, we are told, he charged the artist by no means to omit. It was taken after he was Protector, and is said to have been a present to Sir John Danvers, one of the Judges of King Charles I., whose daughter married Sir John Osborn the first baronet.

Sir George Osborn has built a bed-chamber in imitation of the chapter-house at Peterborough. In this room is a state-bed which belonged to King James I. as appears from the initials I. A. with the crown. The traditionary account of it is, that it was the bed on which the Pretender was born, and that, upon that occasion, it became a perquisite of the chamberlain, by whom it was given to the Osborn family.

CHILLINGTON, in the hundred of Willey and deanery of Clopham, is a small village scarcely a mile from Harold. The manor was anciently parcel of the barony

* See Walspole's *Anecdotes of Painting*, Vol. iii. p. 17.

of Trally; and, for a great length of time, had the same proprietors as Carlton. On the attainder of Lord Vaux, both these manors were granted to Ralph Hastings. The manor of Chillington has been for a considerable time in the noble family of Trevor, and is now the property of Lord Viscount Hampden. The church is situated at a distance from the village, on a hill which commands a fine view of Odell castle, Harold, and the river Ouse. The rectories of Carlton and Chillington were consolidated in 1769. Lord Hampden is patron.

CLAPHAM, in the hundred of Stodden, gives name to the deanery^v in which it is situated. It is a small village, two miles from Bedford, on the road to Higham-Ferrers. The manor belonged successively to the families of Spigurnell, Vaux, and Fitzjeffry^v. In 1648 the manor-house, being then a seat of Sir Philip Warwick, was for several months the prison of the learned and pious Dr. Hammond^w. This manor is now the property of the Earl of Ashburnham, whose great uncle, William Lord Ashburnham, became possessed of it by marriage with the daughter and heir of Thomas Taylor esq.^x The manor-house has been improperly described as a seat of the Earl of Ashburnham; it has been for many years a farm-house. Lord Ashburnham is patron of the vicarage, and impropiator of the great tithes which belonged to the priory of Caldwell. Clapham was formerly a chapelry of Oakly; and it is singular, that although it has long been a distinct parish, the inhabitants still bury their dead there.

CLIFTON, about one mile and a half east of Shefford, gives name to the hundred in which it stands. The manor, on the death of Sir Michael Fisher in 1549, without surviving male issue, came to the St. Johns, by marriage with his daughter and heir^y. It is now, by a late purchase, the property of Simpson Anderson esq. In the north aisle of the parish church is an altar-tomb, in memory of Sir Michael Fisher: the sides are richly ornamented with tabernacle work. Near it is the tomb of his son, who died without issue in his father's life-time. Mrs. Olivier, mother of the present incumbent, is patroness of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Shefford.

CLOPHILL, in the hundred and deanery of Flitt, is a populous village, about three miles and a half west of Shefford. The manor belonged to the Barons de Albini; whose castle, the seat of their barony, was at Cainhoe in this parish^z. It appears to have been a place of considerable strength. The keep, which is still called the

^v The ancient orthography (Clopham) is retained in the name of the deanery.

^y Esch. Edw. II. Edw. III. and Edw. IV. ^w Ant. Wood. ^x Collins.

^z Cole's Escheats, Brit. Mus. ^z Dugdale's Baronage.

Castlehill, is lofty, and overgrown with coppice-wood. After the extinction of the family of Albini, it is probable that the manor of Clophill, or Cainhoe, was sold by the co-heirs. It passed through the families of Lacy, Nowers, and Norton^a: after which it came to the Greys, earls of Kent; and is now the property of their representative the Right Honourable Lady Lucas.

Robert de Albini, founder of the priory of Beaulieu, in Hertfordshire, gave an estate in the parish of Clophill, or Cainhoe, to the monks there^b. His charter mentions a monastery at Clophill^c, of which nothing farther is known. It is probable that it was a cell to St. Alban's, and was of short duration. After the reformation, Sir Michael Fisher became possessed of the estate which had belonged to the monks of Beaulieu, and had acquired the name of the manor of Clophill-Hall. His grand-daughter and heir married the first Lord St. John of Bletsoe^d. This estate has been held for a considerable time with the principal manor of Clophill, and is now the property of Lady Lucas.

The manor of *Beadlow*, partly in this parish, was for many years in the Charnock family; and is now vested in their representatives the Herveys.

The parish church stands on a hill, at a considerable distance from any part of the village. The great tithes of this parish were appropriated to the abbey of St. Alban's^e about the year 1097^f. They are now annexed to the vicarage by the benefaction of one of the earls of Kent. Lady Lucas has the patronage.

COLMWORTH, a village in the hundred of Barford and deanery of Eaton, is about eight miles N. E. of Bedford. The monastery of St. Neot's had considerable estates in this parish, which were granted in 1542 to Sir Richard Williams, *alias* Cromwell. Sir Edward Montagu, Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, died seised of the manor of Colmworth in 1557^g. It had been for many years in the family of Ray previously to 1797, when it was purchased by the present proprietor the Reverend Leonard Towne.

The parish church is a handsome Gothic structure, with a lofty spire, which is a conspicuous object for several miles round. In this church is the tomb of Eleanor wife of Sir Gerard Braybroke, daughter and heir of Aylmer Lord St. Amand, who had large possessions in this county in the fourteenth century; and a very sumptuous monument, erected in 1641 by Lady Dyer, in memory of her deceased husband Sir William Dyer knt. The inscription quaintly informs us, that "they multiplied

^a Esch. Edw. I. Edw. II. and Edw. III. ^b Dugdale's Monasticon. ^c The words of the charter are, "Nec non mansio quædam de dominio domini juxta monasterium de Clophelle quam monachi sibi-ipsis ædificent." ^d Cole's Escheats, Brit. Mus. ^e The *Liber Regis* erroneously says to Chicksand. ^f Lives of the Abbots of St. Alban's. ^g Cole's Escheats.

themselves into seven children," one of whom was Sir Ludowick Dyer, created a baronet in 1626. The following is a specimen of the poetry :

" My dearest duft, could not thy hasty day
Afford thy drowfy patience leave to ftay
One hour longer, fo that we might either
Have fat up, or gone to-bed together :
But fince thy finifh'd labour hath poffefs'd
Thy weary limbs with early reft,
Enjoy it fweetly, and thy widowe bride
Shall foon repofe her by thy flumbering fide ;
Whofe bufinefs now is only to prepare
My nightly drefs, and call to prayer.
Mine eyes wax heavy, and the day grows old,
The dew falls thick, my blood grows cold :
Draw, draw the clofed curtains, and make room,
My dear, my deareft duft, I come, I come."

John Hele efq. is patron of the rectory of Colmworth, having purchafed the advowfon of the Hillerfdons of Elftow.

COPLE, in the hundred of Wixamtree, is a fmall village about four miles and a half from Bedford. The Duke of Bedford has the manor of Cople, together with the manors of Woodend, Wigger, Rolands, and Howcots, all in this parifh. They were purchafed in 1774, of the Duke of Marlborough, by John, Duke of Bedford. Cople had been fucceffively in the Beauchamps, Mowbrays, and Goftwicks^b ; Woodend for many years in the Lukes ; Rolands belonged anciently to a family of that name : it had been in the Spencer family before 1642^c.

In the parifh church are tombs with brafs figures of the families of Launcelyn, Roland, and Gray. The Launcelyns were benefactors towards the building of the church, as appears by their arms cut in ftone on one of the pillars. In the chancel are two altar tombs, with effigies in brafs, in memory of Sir Walter Luke, juftice of the common pleas, who died in 1544 ; and Nicholas Luke, baron of the exchequer, who died in 1563. Sir Walter's Lady was Anne Launcelyn, nurfe to King Henry VIII.^d The Lukes refided at Woodend in this parifh, by moft writers miftaken for a place of the fame name near Toddington. Sir Oliver Luke of Woodend and his fon Sir Samuel were both in the fervice of the parliament during the civil wars ; the latter was fcout-mafter for Bedfordshire and fome adjoining counties^e. His name has attained much celebrity, as the fupposed original of Butler's Hudibras. It is certain that the poet lived fome time in his houfe, acting in the capacity of his

^b Cole's Efcheats, Brit. Muf. ^c Ibid. ^d Bedfordshire Pedigrees, Brit. Muf.

^e Myfteries of the Good Old Caufe.

clerk; and it is observable, that in his poem of *Dunstaple Downs*, he expressly calls Sir Samuel Luke, Sir Hudibras^m. Sir Samuel was buried at Cople, in 1670. His descendants continued at Woodend, now a farm-house, till the death of George Luke, the last of the family, in 1732.

The great tithes of Cople were given to the priory of Chickland, by Simon de Beauchampⁿ; the impropriate rectory and the advowson of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Bedford, are now vested in Christ-church college, Oxford. The Duke of Bedford is lessee of the rectory.

CRANFIELD, in the hundred of Redbornstoke and deanery of Flitt, is a village on the borders of Buckinghamshire, about nine miles south-west of Bedford. The manor was given to the monks of Ramsey by Ailwin Niger, who died in 998^o. It was granted in 1621 to Sir Lionel Cranfield, who was the same year created a baron, taking his title from this place. In 1672, it became the property of the Monoux family; and in 1729, was purchased of them by Wriothesley, Duke of Bedford, from whom it descended to the present Duke. The manor of Washingleys in this parish was in the Leighs of Stoneleigh, from whom it passed, by purchase, to the family of Field, and from them, by female heirs, to the Bakers and Colemans, of whom it was inherited by the present proprietor, Mr. Theed Pearse of Bedford. There was anciently a gild or brotherhood in the church of Cranfield, and lands given for a *drinking*, and for the maintenance of a lamp. The Rev. George Davies, the present incumbent, is patron of the rectory.

DEAN is a small village in the hundred of Stodden and deanery of Eaton, situated in the north part of the county, on the borders of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire, about four miles from Kimbolton. The manor of Over or Upper Dean, a hamlet in this parish, was in the Cheney family for several generations^p. The priory of Huntingdon had another manor, which perhaps was that of Lower or Nether Dean. They are now both the property of Lord St. John, and have been a considerable time in his family. In the church is an altar-tomb with the effigies in brass, in very fair preservation, of Sir Thomas Barker, prebendary of the the collegiate church of St. Mary in Shrewsbury, and rector of Dean, who died in 1501. The church of Dean was given by Alice de Clermont, countess of Pembroke, to the knights hospitallers^q, who were patrons of the rectory till the reformation. King Henry VIII. gave the rectory of Dean to the church of Wor-

^m See the subject discussed in *Biograph. Brit.* new edit. Vol. iii. p. 86, 87. in the notes.

ⁿ Dugdale's *Baronage*. ^o Dugdale's *Monasticon*.

^p See *Nom. Villarum*, No. 1316. in *Brit. Mus.* No. 6281. and *Esch. Hen.* VI.

^q Dugdale's *Monasticon*.

cester, in 1547, since which time the great tithes have been vested in the dean and chapter, who appoint a curate. Sir John Smith bart. of Sidling in Dorsetshire is lessee under the impropiators. Over and Nether-Dean have been inclosed, by an act of parliament, passed in 1800, when an allotment of land was assigned to the impropiators in lieu of tithes.

Dean is said to have been the birth-place of Francis Dillingham, one of the translators of the Bible: the family of Dillingham appears to have been very numerous in this parish, but no record of his birth appears in the register.

DUNSTAPLE, in the hundred of Manshead and in the deanery to which it gives name, is a market town on the great road to Chester and Holyhead, 33 miles from London. Its origin is attributed to the provident care of king Henry I. who, finding that this neighbourhood, through which a much frequented road towards the north passed, was much infested by robbers, ordered the woods to be cut down and grubbed up, and having built a royal mansion for his own residence, called Kingbury, encouraged some of his subjects to settle near him, by granting them lands at a small rent, a market, and various liberties and privileges¹. The monkish legends add, that the town took its name from Dun or Dunning, the chief of the robbers. Modern etymologists have supposed with greater probability, that it was called Dunstaple from its market or staple on the downs. *Duna* or *Dunum* in barbarous Latin, is a hill or down, and frequently occurs in the chronicle of Dunstaple, in the description of lands in this neighbourhood, as either *infra* or *super Dunam*.

The king kept the new town in his own hands till about the year 1131, when he bestowed it, with all its rights and privileges, on a priory of Black Canons, which he had founded near the mansion, where he occasionally resided, and where, in 1123, he had kept his Christmas with great splendour, receiving an embassy from the earl of Anjou². This palace he reserved in his own hands, because, as yet, there were no apartments in the convent fit for his reception³. The king kept his Christmas at Dunstaple again in 1132⁴; as did his successor king Stephen in 1137⁵. In 1154, the war being terminated, a friendly meeting took place at Dunstaple, between Stephen and Henry duke of Normandy, who succeeded him on the throne⁶. In 1204, king John gave his palace and gardens, on the site of which is now a farm-house on the road to Luton, near Mrs. Marsh's hospital, to the prior and convent⁷, who, upon occasion of all future royal visits, accommodated the monarch and his suite within their own walls⁸. In 1213, the town was destroyed by fire. In 1214, a great synod was held at the priory⁹. In 1215,

¹ Dugdale's Monasticon. ² Sax. Chron. ³ Dugdale's Monasticon. ⁴ Holinshed.

⁵ J. Bromton inter Decem Scriptores, vol. i. 1343. ⁶ Holinshed.

⁷ Dugdale's Monasticon, vol. ii. ⁸ Chron. Dunst. ⁹ Ibid.

king John lay at Dunstable, on his journey towards the north^a. In 1217, Lewis the Dauphin, with the English barons, who were in arms against the king, halted for a night in this town^b. In 1244, a great number of discontented barons and knights assembled at Dunstable, and Luton, under pretence of holding a tournament, although their meeting was in reality for political purposes. The tournament was prohibited by the royal mandate, to which they yielded obedience, but gave a convincing proof of their formidable power, by sending Sir Fulk Fitzwarren to the pope's nuncio, whose proceedings had given great umbrage to the English, with a peremptory order, in the name of the barons and knights, assembled at Dunstable and Luton, that he should instantly quit the kingdom; an order which the nuncio, finding the king's authority insufficient to protect him, was obliged to obey^c. It appears by the chronicle of Dunstable, that king Henry III. frequently honoured the convent with his presence. In 1247, he was there with his queen, prince Edward and the princess Margaret; on which occasion the prior presented their majesties with a gilt cup, and the prince and princess with a gold buckle each. In 1265, the king and queen, with cardinal Ottoboni the pope's legate, and Simon Montford, earl of Leicester, made some stay at Dunstable. In 1276, some of the king's falconers, who were lodged in the priory, having had an affray with the chaplains and the prior's servants, the king came in person to try the matter, and summoned a jury of 36 men, out of two hundreds, unconnected with the convent or the town. It appeared, that the falconers had begun the affray, and killed one of the chaplains. When the corpse of queen Eleanor was deposited one night at the priory of Dunstable, in 1290, two bawdekyns or precious cloths were given to the convent, and 120 pounds weight of wax. As it passed through the town, the bier stopped in the middle of the market-place whilst the chancellor and nobility marked out a proper spot for the erection of a cross, the prior assisting at the ceremony, and sprinkling the ground with holy-water. This cross was demolished during the civil wars, probably by the soldiers of the earl of Essex, who appear to have been quartered at Dunstable in 1643^d. In 1341, king Edward III. with his queen were present at a grand tournament held at Dunstable^e. No mention has been found of any other royal visits to this town, excepting that king Henry VI. was there in 1457^f, and queen Elizabeth, on her progress in 1572^g.

The priors of Dunstable enjoyed very extensive liberties and privileges. They had the power of life and death, and sat with the king's justices itinerant, who, on their circuit, always came to Dunstable for the purpose of trying such offences as had been committed within the jurisdiction of the town. They had more than one

^a Holinshed. ^b M. Paris. ^c Holinshed. ^d Parish Register. ^e Holinshed. ^f Ibid.
^g Queen Elizabeth's Progresses.

gaol, for it appears by the chronicle of the priory, that their *principal* gaol was rebuilt in 1295; and they had a gallows at a place without the town, called Edefcote. During the insurrections, in the reign of Richard II. in 1371, the townsmen exacted of the prior a charter of liberties, but it was cancelled afterwards, as having been extorted by force^h.

The revenues of the priory, at its dissolution, were estimated at 344l. 13s. 3d. clear yearly value. The last prior was Gervase Markham, who took an active part in the proceedings relative to the divorce between king Henry VIII. and Catharine of Arragon, his queen. The commissioners sat at Dunstable priory, and the sentence of divorce was pronounced by archbishop Cranmer, on the 23d of May 1533, in the chapel of our lady thereⁱ. Prior Markham, after the dissolution of his convent, had a pension of 60l. *per annum*. He died in the month of September 1561, and was buried at Dunstable, as appears by the parish register. The site of the priory, which was granted in 1554 to Dr. Leonard Chamberlayne, is now the property and residence of Col. Maddison. The only remains of the conventual buildings (excepting what is now the parish church), are some rooms with vaulted and groined stone roofs; one of them has been converted into a parlour.

The present parish church, which contains only the nave of the conventual church, exhibits various styles of architecture. The inside is chiefly Norman, and undoubtedly part of the original structure. The stone gallery at the west end, now hid by the organ-loft, has pointed arches; the windows are of a much later date. The west front is very richly decorated with niches of the early Gothic architecture. The great western door has a fine semicircular arch, which has been very richly ornamented with foliage, grotesque heads, &c. neatly cut in Toternhoe stone, now much mutilated. It is said that king Henry VIII. intended to establish a cathedral at Dunstable, of which Dr. Day was to be the first bishop; and that when the design was laid aside, a great part of the conventual church was pulled down^k.

In the parish church of Dunstable are several memorials of the families of Dickenson, Aynscombe, Marsh, and Chew, great benefactors to the town. The story of an epitaph on a woman who had 19 children at five births, has been sufficiently exploded; it arose from a misconstruction of the quaint manner in which the number 19 was expressed in Latin verse^l. The brass plate on which this epitaph was inscribed has been removed; it has been frequently printed.

Over the altar is a large painting of the Lord's supper by Sir James Thornhill, given to the parish by Mrs. Cart and Mrs. Ashton in 1720. In the church of Dun-

^h Chron. Dunst. ⁱ Strype's Memorials of archbishop Cranmer, and Herbert's Life of Hen. VIII.

^k Willis's Mitred Abbies.

^l "Ter tres, bis quinos hæc natos fertur habere
Per sponfos binos."

staple was a fraternity of St. John the Baptist. A very richly embroidered altar-cloth, with portraits of the family of Fayrey, and a figure of St. John the Baptist, said to have been given to this fraternity by Henry Fayrey, who died in 1516, is in the possession of John Miller esq. of Bedford. It was some years ago occasionally used as a funeral pall at Dunstable, by the permission of Mr. Miller's family, who then resided there. The brotherhood-house belonged to the Wingate family in 1642^m.

The friars preachers, or black friars, established a convent of their order at Dunstable in 1259, forely against the will of the prior and canonsⁿ; but the friars being patronized by the court, it was in vain for them to resist. In a few years they were so far reconciled to their new neighbours, that the prior condescended to become their guest^o. The yearly revenue of the friars, when their convent was suppressed, amounted only to 4l. 18s. 4d. The site was granted to Sir William Herbert; it is supposed to have been in a field of Mrs. Fossey's near her house, which is situated west of the pond, in the South-street of Dunstable.

There was also at this place a house or hospital for lepers, belonging to the prior and canons of Dunstable, who appointed the warden. It existed as early as the beginning of the thirteenth century^p.

King Henry I. is said to have founded schools at Dunstable. It appears by the chronicle of the convent, that in 1224, disputes ran so high between the scholars and the townsmen, that many were wounded on both sides, and some mortally^q.

The manor of Dunstable, which was given by king Henry I. to the prior and convent, was, after the reformation, annexed to the honour of Ampthill, and is now held, on lease under the crown, as parcel of that honour, by the Duke of Bedford.

The charter of king Henry I. granted two markets to this town, and a fair, at the festival of St. Peter, to whom the convent was dedicated. The markets were held on Sundays^r and Wednesdays. King John granted another fair at the festival of St. Fremund. The chronicle of the priory mentions a great loss which the market at Dunstable sustained in 1294, by the long stay of prince Edward at Langley, his kitchen consuming more than 200 messes a-day, and his servants taking up all the cheese, eggs, and other commodities which they could find in the market, and even from the tradesmen's houses, and paying for nothing. There is now only one market held on Wednesdays, and four fairs, Ash Wednesday, May 22, August 12, and November 12; all fairs of business, chiefly for the sale of horses, cows, and sheep. The number of houses in the parish, according to the returns made under the Population Act, in 1801, was 243, that of inhabitants 1296.

^m Cole's Escheats, Brit. Mus.

ⁿ Chron. Dunst.

^o Ibid.

^p Ibid.

^q Ibid.

^r It was not unusual in ancient times to hold markets and fairs on Sundays and other great festivals. See the account of Thatcham and Wallingford in Berkshire.

Dunstable had summons to send members to parliament in the reign of Henry II.^s The town, which is governed by four constables, retains but few of the privileges which the townsmen formerly enjoyed under the charter of king Henry I. The assizes for the county were held at Dunstable in 1607^t. The frequent communication between this town and London, occasioned the plague to be very fatal here in 1603 and 1625; the register of burials for the year 1665 is imperfect.

Edward VI. in 1552, granted the rectory and advowson of Dunstable to the dean and canons of Windforⁿ. It is probable that the grant was resumed, the rectory being now in the patronage of the crown.

Mrs. Frances Ashton, Mrs. Jane Cart, and Mr. Thomas Aynscombe, in pursuance of the intention of their relation, Mr. William Chew, who died in 1712, built and endowed a charity-school in this town. By two indentures, bearing date 1724 and 1727, the school is endowed with lands in Caddington, Luton, Houghton-Regis, Flamsted, Toternhoe, and Whipnade. The master has a salary of 40*l. per annum* for teaching forty boys; and 37*l. per annum* is allowed for their clothing. The management of the charity is vested in seven trustees. If a sufficient number of boys for the object of this charity should not be found at Dunstable, they may be filled up from the parishes of Caddington, Kenfworth, Edlesborough, Houghton-Regis, or Luton. In consequence of the increased rents of the estates, forty boys and fifteen girls are now clothed, educated, and apprenticed, by this charity.

Mrs. Cart and Mrs. Ashton each founded an alms-house for six poor widows. Mrs. Ashton, by her will bearing date 1727, left lands for the purpose of paying 6*l. per annum* each to the poor women in her alms-house, to buy them a gown, firing, and other necessaries. The remainder, after deducting for repairs, and paying some specific charitable bequests, to be divided, in equal portions, between the six poor women.

Mrs. Blandina Marsh, in 1713, built neat houses for the residence of six decayed maiden gentlewomen, which, by her benefaction, and that of another lady, are endowed with an income of about 180*l. per annum* for their support.

Elkanah Settle, a well-known dramatist and political writer in the reign of Charles the Second, was born at Dunstable on the first of February 1647-8ⁿ. He was the antagonist of Dryden; and during the bias of party prejudice, there were not wanting those who preferred his compositions to those of his rival.

It may, perhaps, be thought worthy of remark, that the first attempt at theatrical representation in this kingdom is supposed to have been at Dunstable, where the

^s Willis's Notit. Parliament.

^t Note in the Register at Houghton Conquest, by Mr. Archer.

ⁿ Tanner. ^w Parish Register.

play of the miracles of St. Catherine was performed under the direction of Geoffrey, a secular priest, afterwards abbot of St. Alban's^{*}.

DUNTON, a village in the hundred of Biggleswade and deanery of Shefford, is situated about four miles east of Biggleswade, on the borders of Hertfordshire. The manor of Dunton, which had belonged to the Chamberleynes, and the manor of Joyes in Dunton, were granted; in 1475, to Lord Grey of Ruthin[†]. They are now, by the name of the manors of Goyes or Joyes, and Chamberleynesbury, the property of Earl Spencer, and have been a considerable time in his family. King Edward the Confessor gave the monks of Waltham a manor in Milnho (now called Millow or Milhow) a hamlet of this parish[‡]. Another manor, which at the time of the Norman Survey was part of the extensive property of Walter Giffard, was, in later times, in the Enderbys, Gostwicks, and Powleys[§]. This manor has been nearly two centuries in the Spencer family, and is now the property of Earl Spencer, who has also the impropriate rectory of this parish which belonged formerly to the priory of Holiwell, and is patron of the vicarage. The parish of Dunton has been inclosed under an act of parliament passed in 1797, when the number of acres in the parish was estimated at 2200.

²⁹ EATON-BRAY, in the hundred of Manshead, is a village about four miles from Dunstable. The manor of Eaton was given by king John to Ardulfus de Braci^b. Not long afterwards it was in the Cantilupes, barons of Bergavenny, who built a castle there in 1221, which the chronicle of Dunstable represents as very injurious to that town. It passed in 1273, by a female heir, to the family of Zouche^c. Katherine, relict of William Lord Zouche, died seized of it in 1471^d. It is supposed to have been forfeited by attainder, and to have been granted to Sir Reginald Bray in 1513, when he obtained a grant of the neighbouring parish of Toternhoe, which had been also in the families of Cantilupe and Zouche.

The family of Bray were of consequence in the county at an early period. Thomas de Bray was knight of the shire in 1289, and Roger de Bray in 1312. When they settled at Eaton-Bray, to which they gave their name, does not appear; but it was long before they were possessed of the manor. Edmund Bray, grandfather of Sir Reginald, the faithful minister of king Henry VII. was described as of this place^e; and it appears on record, that the parish was called Eaton-Bray in the reign of Edward III^f. It is probable that the Brays held the manor under the Barons Cantilupe and Zouche. Sir Edmund Bray, nephew of Sir Reginald, was summoned to parliament in 1530

^{*} See Bibliotheca Top. Brit. Bedfordshire, p. 237, where is a reference to Warton's History of English Poetry, vol. i. p. 236.

[†] Pat 14. Edw. IV. [‡] Dugdale's Monasticon. [§] Esch. Hen. VII.—Hen. VIII.—Eliz. and Car. I. ^b Register of the Priory of Dunstable in the British Museum. ^c Chron. Dunst.

^d Esch. 11 Edw. IV. ^e Biograph. Brit. ^f Inq. ad q. dam. See also Harleian MSS. 5193. fol. 75.

as baron of Eaton-Bray. The title became extinct by the death of his son John Lord Bray without issue in 1557. The manor of Eaton-Bray passed to the posterity of William Lord Sandys, who married the only child of John Bray, uncle of the first Lord Bray; and from them, by marriage, to the family of Sandys of Latimers, in Buckinghamshire. Sir Edwin Sandys of Eaton-Bray died in 1608^a. The manor was purchased of his representatives in 1623 by the Huxleys of Wyer-Hall in Middlesex^b. It has since been in the family of Potter. In 1763 it was purchased of Thomas Potter esq. by William Beckford esq. alderman of London, and is now the property of his son. There are no remains of the castle, nor of the mansion of the Lords Bray. A house, which was built on the site about a century ago, has recently been pulled down.

In the chancel of the parish church is the monument of Jane, wife of Edmund Lord Bray, who died in 1558. In the south aisle is a fragment of stone-work, richly carved and ornamented with the royal arms, and the arms and device of Sir Reginald Bray. The great tithes of Eaton-Bray, which were formerly appropriated to the priory of Merton in Surrey, now belong, together with the advowson of the vicarage, to Trinity College in Cambridge. Eaton-Bray is in the deanery of Dunstable.

EATON-SOCON, a village in the hundred of Barford, is a great thoroughfare on the north road, 55 miles from London. It gives name to a deanery. At this place was a castle, the seat of a branch of the Beauchamp family, who were barons of the realm from the reign of Henry II. to the year 1292, when Ralph de Beauchamp died seized of the manor of Eaton, held by baronial service^c. He left issue; but as his posterity were not summoned to parliament, Dugdale discontinues the history of the family after his death. It is probable that the manor of Eaton passed by female heirs to the family of Vaux. Leland speaks of the ruins of Eaton castle as belonging, in his time, to the Lord Vaux, whose descendant, Edward Lord Vaux, sold it in 1624 to Rowland Squire: from his family, in 1689, it passed to the Ashlys; and from them, in 1708, to the ancestors of the duke of Bedford^d, who is the present proprietor. Another manor, belonging also to the duke of Bedford, was granted in 1563, to Thomas Beverley, being described as late parcel of the possessions of the dissolved monastery of St. John of Jerusalem^e. In 1629 it passed from Sir Henry Moore to the family of Gery of Bushmead, and in 1640 from them to the Squires; since which time it has been held with the principal manor of Eaton.

^a MS. Diary of Thomas Archer, rector of Houghton Conquest.
William Bray esq.

^b Esch. 21 Edw. I.

^c Duke of Bedford's Papers.

^d Papers communicated by
^e Ibid.

The manor of Eaton, or Goldingtons in Eaton, was part of the estate of Sir Michael Fisher, who died in 1549, and passed by marriage to the St. Johns. It is probable that this is the same estate which (being then called the manor of Eaton or Eyton) was in the Gery family as early as the year 1635, and was sold by them, in 1649, to Robert Dobbs. It has been since in the families of Kent, Brewer, Sibley, and Waller; and was purchased in 1782 of Mr. Joseph Green by the present proprietor John Brickwood esq.

The manor of *Wyboldston* or *Wybolston* in this parish, was, in the 13th century, in the family of Bathonian^a; afterwards, for several generations, in that of Greystock. This manor is now the property of Thomas Whetham esq. in whose family it has been, together with those of Honeyden and Begry, for many years.

The priory of Bismede or Bushmead, in this parish, was founded in the reign of Henry II. by Oliver Beauchamp and his son Hugh. It was inhabited by Austin canons, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Its revenues, at the dissolution of monasteries, were estimated at 7 l. 13s. 9½d. clear yearly value^c. The site was granted in 1537 to Sir William Gascoigne, Comptroller of the Household to Cardinal Wolsey. Sir John Gascoigne in 1545 conveyed it to Anthony Cocket; from whom, in 1552, it passed to William Gery esq.^p ancestor of the late William Gery esq. of Kimbolton. Bushmead is now the property and seat of his son-in-law the Rev. Hugh Wade Gery, who has a cartulary of the priory very fairly written on vellum; and Buck's drawing of the conventual buildings, no part of which now remains, excepting the refectory, converted into a stable and offices.

Bassmead, in this parish, was, in the reign of Henry VIII. the seat of Sir Thomas Wauton^q. A branch of the family of Astrey afterwards settled themselves there. After the death of the late Sir John Danvers, whose ancestors had possessed it for several generations, it was put up to sale, and is now the property of Thomas Smith esq.

The windows of the parish church at Eaton were ornamented with stained glass, of which there are considerable remains in the north aisle, representing subjects from the legends of St. Nicholas and St. Etheldreda. Among the ancient disbursements of the church, as stated in Bacon's *Liber Regis*, was 5s. *per annum* for straw. The duke of Bedford is patron of the vicarage, and proprietor of the rectory which formerly belonged to the knights of St. John of Jerusalem. The parish was inclosed by an act of parliament passed in 1795, when an allotment of land was given to the impropiator in lieu of tithes, and a small allotment, with a corn-rent, to the vicar.

^a Esch. Hen. III. ^c Tanner. ^p Papers in the possession of Mr. Wade Gery.

^q Bedfordshire Pedigrees Brit. Mus.

EDWORTH, a small village on the borders of Hertfordshire, about six miles from Shefford and five from Baldock, is in the hundred of Biggleswade. The manor was part of the estate of Walter de Langton, prime minister to king Edward I^r. It had been before in the Seymours^s, and was afterwards successively in the families of Peverell, Lisle, Talbot, Zouche, Enderby, and Powley^t. It is now the property of William Hale esq. of King's Walden in Hertfordshire, in whose family it has been for many years. Mr. Hale is also patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Shefford. The advowson formerly belonged to the priory of St. Neot's^u.

ELSTOW, a considerable village about a mile and a half from Bedford, is in the hundred of Redbornstoke. It has fairs on the 15th and 16th of May; and on the 5th and 6th of November.

Judith Countess of Huntingdon founded an abbey here, in the reign of William the Conqueror, for Benedictine nuns, which was dedicated to the Holy Trinity, St. Mary, and St. Helen. Its revenues, when dissolved, were estimated at 284l. 12s. 11³/₄d. clear yearly value^w. The site was granted in 1553 to Sir Humphrey Ratcliffe, a younger brother of the Earl of Suffex, who resided in the abbey house, and died in 1566, as appears by his monument over the altar in Elstow church. In the reign of Charles the First^x, and perhaps at an earlier period, it belonged to the family of Hillersdon, who built a large mansion adjoining to the church, now in ruins, the greater part of it having been pulled down a few years ago. The site of the abbey, and the manor, which belonged also to the convent, are now the property of Samuel Whitbread esq. M.P. whose father purchased it, in 1792, of the daughters of the late Mr. Hillersdon.

There are very few remains of the conventual buildings excepting the church (now the parish church), which retains considerable traces of the original structure. The north door is of Norman architecture; some of the columns are square and very massy, and most of the arches circular. At the south-west corner of the church is a small building with a vaulted roof, supported in the centre by an octagonal fluted column, probably a vestibule. In the south aisle of the chancel is the tomb, with her effigies in brass, of Elizabeth Hervey, the last abbess of Elstow, placed there in her life-time, with blank spaces for the dates. As she survived the dissolution of the abbey, it is probable that her body never reached its intended place of sepulture. Some of the nuns, who died after the reformation, were buried in St. Mary's church at Bedford. In the church at Elstow are several memorials of the families of Crompton, Lovett, and Hillersdon.

^r Esch. Edw. I. ^s Ibid. ^t Esch. and Cl. Rot. Edw. III.—Eliz.

^u Placit. &c. de terris in Com. Bedf. in Turr. Lond. ^w Tanner. ^x Cole's Escheats, Brit. Mus.

The great tithes of Elstow were appropriated to the abbey; they are now the property of Mr. Whitbread. He is also patron of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Bedford. The parish has been inclosed by an act of parliament which passed in 1797, when an allotment of lands was made in lieu of the rectorial tithes. The number of acres in the parish was then estimated at 1060.

John Bunyan, author of the celebrated theological romance called the Pilgrim's Progress, was born at Elstow in 1628, of mean parentage.

EVERSHOLT, a village in the hundred of Manshead and deanery of Flitt, lies about two miles and a half east of Woburn. The manor, which had belonged to the monastery, was, after the reformation, annexed to the honour of Ampthill. In 1601 it was granted to Henry Astrey, who, the same year, conveyed it to the Hillersdons. In 1702, it was purchased of that family by Wriothesly Duke of Bedford^y, from whom it has descended to the present duke. The manor of Wakes in this parish, now the Duke of Bedford's, was purchased with Eversholt in 1702. In 1504 it was the property of Giles Lord Daubeney. In 1531 it passed to the family of Hinton; and in 1604 from them to the Hillersdons^z. The manor of Kinghoe or Kinfes, in this parish, is also the Duke of Bedford's. It was purchased by the late duke. The advowson of the rectory, which belonged formerly to the priory of St. John of Jerusalem^a, has been many years in the noble family of Sandys. The reversion, with other large estates of the late Lord Sandys, is vested, after the death of his Lady, in the second son of the late Marquis of Downshire.

EVERTON.—This parish is partly in Bedfordshire, partly in Cambridgeshire, and partly in Huntingdonshire. As the church stands in Cambridgeshire, it will be treated of under that county.

EYWORTH, in the hundred of Biggleswade and deanery of Shefford, lies on the borders of Cambridgeshire, about three miles from Pottou and five from Biggleswade. The manor belonged, at an early period, to the Leybourns^b. It was afterwards in the families of Charlton and Francis^c. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, Eyworth was the property and seat of Sir Edmund Anderson, Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas; a man of considerable eminence in his profession, and one of the judges who sat at the trial of Mary Queen of Scots. His great-grandson Stephen was created a baronet in 1664; their posterity continued at Eyworth till the death of Sir Stephen Anderson bart. in 1773, when the title became extinct. The manor is

^y Duke of Bedford's Records. ^z Ibid. ^a Placit. &c. de terris in Com. Bedford. in Turr. London. ^b Esch. Edw. I.—Edw. III. ^c Esch. Hen. V. &c.

now the property of the Right Hon. Lord Yarborough, whose family name was Anderfon^d, being lineally descended from Stephen Anderfon, a grandson of the chief justice.

In the church are several monuments of the Anderfons. That of the Chief Justice, on the south side of the chancel, has the effigies of himself and his lady, under a richly-ornamented arch. He is represented in his robes and cap, with a collar of S.S.; the face bears a strong resemblance to his portrait, as engraved by Faithorne. On the opposite side of the chancel is the monument of Sir Francis Anderfon, eldest son of the Chief Justice, whose effigies in gilt armour is represented between those of his two wives, kneeling and fronting the chancel. On the south side of the chancel is the monument of Edmund Anderfon esq. of Stratton, eldest son of Sir Francis, who died in 1638. It has half-length figures of himself and his wife Alice in white marble, their hands jointly holding a heart, on which are inscribed these words—"To God." On the floor is the tomb of Alice, Viscountess Verulam and Baroness St. Alban's, widow of the great Lord Chancellor Bacon, who died in 1656, probably at the house of Mr. Anderfon, to whom she was related.

The great tithes of this parish were appropriated to the priory of St. Helen's in London. They are now the property of Lord Yarborough, who is patron of the vicarage. Edmund Chishull, a learned antiquary and divine, was born in this parish.

FARNDISH, in the hundred of Willey and deanery of Clopham, is a small village on the borders of Northamptonshire, into which county a considerable part of the parish extends. It is about five miles from Higham-Ferrers. In the 13th and 14th centuries the manor was successively the property of the Pabenhams and Tyinghams^e. During the last century, and perhaps for a longer period, it was in the family of Maydwell, from whom it passed, by marriage and bequest, to the Lockwoods; and is now the property of William Lockwood Maydwell esq. Charles Chester esq. is patron of the rectory. The parish of Farndish, computed to contain 672 acres, has been inclosed by an act of parliament passed in 1800, when an allotment was made to the rector in lieu of tithes.

FELMERSHAM, in the hundred of Willey and deanery of Clopham, lies on the banks of the Ouse, about seven miles north-east of Bedford. The manor, at an early period, was in the family of St. John, in which it continued till 1640, when it was sold by the Earl of Bolingbroke and his brothers to Mr. Leach, of whose descendants it was purchased in 1717 by Thomas Orlebar gent. It is now vested in the

^d Some years ago he took the name of Pelham in addition.

^e Esch. Edw. II.—Rich. III.

Rev. Thomas Orlebar Marsh, the Rev. Edward Orlebar Smith, and other representatives of Mr. Orlebar. The Master and Scholars of Trinity College in Cambridge have also a manor here, together with the rectory and advowson of the vicarage. The parish was inclosed by an act of parliament passed in 1765, when allotments of land were assigned to the impropiators and to the vicar.

The west end of the church affords a curious specimen of the earliest Gothic architecture. Between the nave and chancel is an ancient wooden screen very richly ornamented.

From a very early period there were two manors at *Radwell*, a hamlet of this parish, which has a bridge over the Ouse. One of these manors was granted, by William the Conqueror, to Eustace de St. Giles, who gave it to his brother Osbert le Mordaunt^f, ancestor of the Peterborough family. From the reign of Henry III. to that of Henry VI. it was in the Radwells^g; and passed from them by an heir female to the family of Rands^h, who continued to possess it till the year 1753, when it was sold to the late Jeffrey Fisher esq. of Flitwick, whose only child Anne, late the wife of James Hesse esq. and now of George Brooks esq. has given it to her two daughters by her first husband, Anne wife of William Horne esq. and Martha wife of the Rev. Arthur Bold. The manor-house is a very ancient building, and has, in the windows of an old hall, the arms of Radwell impaling S. a chevron between three lions' heads erased Arg. crowned Or (Beauchamp). The other manor, at the time of the Norman survey, belonged to the Albinis; in 1316 to the Patshullsⁱ, from whom it passed by female heirs to the St. Johns; and is now the property of the Right Hon. Lord St. John.

FLITTON was anciently called Flictham, Flutte, and Flitt. It gives name to the hundred and deanery in which it lies. The village is about four miles south-east of Ampthill. The manor, which, at the Norman survey, belonged to Robert Fafiton, and was afterwards in the Fitz-Richards, before the year 1324 became the property of the ancient family of Grey of Ruthin^k, who, at an earlier period^l, had been possessed of the manor of Wrest in this parish, now the seat of their representative Lady Lucas. Edmund Lord Grey of Ruthin was created Earl of Kent in 1465. The barony passed to an heir female on the death of Henry Earl of Kent in 1639, but the earldom continued in the family of Grey. In 1706 Henry de Grey, Earl of Kent, was created Marquis, and in 1710, Duke of Kent. He died in 1740 without surviving male issue, when the dukedom became extinct. The marquissate was

^f Collins's Peerage. ^g Escheats. ^h Bedfordshire Pedigrees, Brit. Mus.

ⁱ *Nomina Villarum*, Brit. Mus. ^k Esch. 17 Edw. II.

^l Reginald Grey died seized of Wrest in 1308. See Esch. 1 Edw. II.



WEST VIEW OF FELMERSHAM CHURCH BEDFORDSHIRE.



not long before his death entailed on his eldest grand-daughter, Jemima, the lady of Lord Chancellor Hardwicke, and daughter of John Lord Glenorchy, by Lady Amabel Grey, the duke's eldest daughter, and her issue male. On the death of Marchioness Grey, in 1797, without male issue, that title became extinct; but the barony of Lucas, which in 1663 was extended to the heirs male and female of Anthony Earl of Kent by Mary, sole heiress of John Lord Lucas, descended to her eldest daughter Amabel, relict of Lord Polworth, now baroness Lucas, who is the present proprietor of the manors of Flitton and Wrest.

Wrest Park was in 1524 the seat of Sir Henry Grey^m; who, being then heir to the title, on the death of his half-brother, found the estates so much impoverished, that he neglected to assume it; and it remained dormant till re-assumed by his grandson Reginald. The peerages are inaccurate in stating that his son declined to assume the title, the fact being, that he never had the opportunity; for he died in the lifetime of his father in the year 1545, as appears by his tomb in Flitton church; so that Reginald succeeded to the estates on the death of his grandfather in 1562, and was the fifth only, and not the sixth, as the peerages state, to whom the dignity of an earl, which he did not assume till 1571, belonged. Wrest Park has been ever since the principal seat of the family.

The house, in its present state, retains little appearance of antiquity, having been, at various times, altered and modernized. It contains a great number of portraits, forming nearly a series of the noble family of Grey from Henry Earl of Kent, one of the peers who sat on the trial of Mary Queen of Scots, down to the present time. Among these are Elizabeth Countess of Kent, who, residing at Wrest in her widowhood, there patronized Butler the poet, and frequently entertained the learned Selden as her guest; Anthony Grey, rector of Burbach, who succeeded, in 1639, to the title on the death of Henry Earl of Kent, husband to the above-mentioned lady; Lady Susanna Grey, daughter of Charles Earl of Kent, who carried the barony of Grey of Ruthin to the Longuevilles; Henry Earl of Kent, who died in 1651, and Amabel his second countess, commonly called the good Countess of Kent; Anthony Earl of Kent and his lady, the sole heiress of John Lord Lucas, in their robes, by Sir Peter Lely, &c. &c. &c. There are several portraits also of the Crew family, and others; among which are Sir Randolph Crew, Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench, a fine picture of Thomas Lord Crew by Sir Peter Lely, Nathaniel Lord Crew Bishop of Durham, and Sir Charles Lucas, brother of the first Lord Lucas, the eminent loyalist, who was shot at the siege of Colchester; and of that celebrated lawyer and statesman, the late Lord Chancellor Hardwicke.

The gardens at Wrest Park exhibit a specimen of the old style improved by Brown,

^m Collins's Peerage.

who made the serpentine river, a very fine piece of water, about three quarters of a mile in length, surrounding the garden, and supplied by a spring which rises not far from the house. At the spring-head is a cold-bath, over which is a building in imitation of a Roman temple, designed by Sir William Chambers. The duke of Kent, who was very partial to his country-seat, adorned the gardens with obelisks and various other buildings, particularly a magnificent banqueting-house, which terminates a spacious avenue in front of the mansion, and a large room where he spent many convivial hours with some of the great statesmen who were his contemporaries, after partaking of his favourite amusement in the adjoining bowling-green.

It is probable that the parish church of Flitton was built by Reginald Lord Grey, Lord Admiral of England, subsequent to the year 1410, when the court of chivalry adjudged him the right of bearing the arms of Hastings^a, which are quartered with his own on the porch of Flitton church. It is principally remarkable for the monuments of the noble family of Grey, whose burial-place it has been since the reign of Henry VIII. The aisle adjoining the nave was built by Henry Earl of Kent in 1605. In this aisle are the monuments of Henry Earl of Kent, the founder, who died in 1614, with the effigies, in their robes, of himself and his countess, Mary daughter of Sir John Cotton, who died in 1580, and was buried at Great Gaddefden;—Elizabeth Countess of Kent, daughter of Gilbert Earl of Shrewsbury, who died in 1651, with her effigies in white marble;—Henry Earl of Kent, who died in 1651, and his second wife Amabel, called from her works of charity the *good* Countess of Kent, who died in 1698, at the age of 92. Their effigies in white marble are very heavy and ungraceful;—and Lady Jane, relict of Sir Eustace Hart, who died in 1671, with her effigies in white marble. Charles Earl of Kent, who died in 1623, and Henry Earl of Kent, who died in 1639, have only memorials on the floor; where is also a figure in brass, removed, probably, from the nave or chancel, of Henry, eldest son of Sir Henry Grey, who died in 1545, during the life-time of his father. The duke of Kent built three additional rooms, in which are the monuments of the duke himself, who died in 1740, and his only son Anthony, Earl of Harold, who died in 1723, with their effigies in white marble in Roman habits; his two duchesses, Jemima Crew, who died in 1738, and Lady Sophia Bentinck, who died in 1748; his three daughters, Amabel Lady Glenorchy, who died in 1727; Lady Henrietta De Grey, 1717; and Lady Anne Cavendish, 1733, with their effigies in white marble; an urn to the memory of Lady Mary Gregory, a fourth daughter, who died in 1761; and another in memory of the late Earl of Hardwicke, who died in 1790. In the chancel is the effigies in brass of Thomas Hill, receiver-general to three earls of Kent, who died in 1628, aged 101°.

^a Collins's Peerage. ° Mr. Hill's age, and the date of his death, were incorrectly printed in Pennant's Journey to London, and have been from thence copied into other works.

The great tithes of Flitton, which were appropriated to the priory of Elstow, are now vested, together with the advowson of the vicarage, in Christ-Church College, Oxford, and are held on lease under the college by Lady Lucas.

Silsoe, a hamlet in this parish, on the road from Luton to Bedford, had formerly a market on Tuesdays, granted in 1319 to Ralph Fitz-Richard, then lord of the manor, together with a fair on the festival of St. Philip and St. James^p. This fair is still held; and another on the 21st of September. The market has been long disused. The manor, at the time of the Norman survey, belonged to a concubine of Nigel de Albini. It has long been in the family of Grey. An ancient record speaks of the manor of Blundell in Silsoe^q, as part of their property, but the name is not now known. At this hamlet is a chapel of ease. The altar-piece, representing the Adoration of the Shepherds, was painted by Mrs. Mary Lloyd, and given by her to the chapel.

FLITWICK, in the hundred of Redbornstoke and deanery of Flitt, lies about three miles south of Ampthill. The manor of Flitwick was anciently in the Earls of Albemarle^r. A moiety of it passed afterwards through the families of Flitwick, St. Amand, Cornwall Lord Fanhope, and Grey^s Earl of Kent: by the latter it was conveyed to the crown. King Charles I. having sold it to the city of London, it was conveyed in 1639 by the city trustees to Edward Blofield and his heirs. From the Blofields this manor passed by marriage to Benjamin Rhodes esq. who in 1736 devised it to Humphrey Dell, M. D. Under Dr. Dell's will it was enjoyed by the late Jeffrey Fisher esq. in right of his wife, and now by George Brooks esq. as husband of Anne daughter of Mr. Fisher, and relict of James Hesse esq. The manor-house is occupied by the Right Hon. John Trevor. The other moiety of the manor belonged to the priory of Dunstable^t; and, since the reformation, to the families of Mofsley, Honeywood, and Mildmay^u. It is supposed to be now consolidated with the other. The great tithes were appropriated to the priory of Dunstable. They are now held, together with the glebe-land, which consists of 95 acres, 3 roods, and 2 perches, by Mr. Brooks, on a lease of 99 years from the feoffees, in trust for the schoolmaster of Holme, the master of the free-school at Biggleswade, the vicar of Biggleswade, the rector of Connington, and the vicar of St. Neot's. The Earl of Ossory is patron of the vicarage of Flitwick.

At Rokefac, or Ruxox, in this parish, was a small monastery, which appears to have been a cell to Dunstable. The chapel of St. Nicholas de Rokefac was built

^p Cart. 12 Edw. II. ^q Cole's Escheats in the British Museum. ^r Chron. Dunst. 1269.

^s Escheats, Edw. I.—Rich. II. Cl. Hen. VI. &c. ^t Chron. Dunst. ^u Cole's Escheats.

by Philip de Sannerville about the year 1170, and dedicated by Robert de Chefney, Bishop of Lincoln^w. The site of Rokefac was granted by William Earl of Albemarle, and Hawise his wife, to the canons of Dunstaple and the canons of Rokefac^x. Alexander, canon of Rokefac, is mentioned in an old deed in the cartulary of Dunstaple in the British Museum, which contains several grants to St. Nicholas of Rokefac. Mention is made in the chronicle of Dunstaple, under the year 1205, of settling about the prior at Rokefac. Friar Michael de Peck, friar John de Hallings, and others of the household at Rokefac, are mentioned in the same chronicle under the year 1283. It is probable that the monks were removed long before the reformation, for records of that date make no other mention of Rokefac, or Ruxox, than as a manor belonging to the priory of Dunstaple, which was granted in 1558 to the family of West, in whom it continued for a considerable time. In 1704 it was purchased of the heirs female of their successors, the Blofields, by Lord Bruce, and of his family, in 1738, by John duke of Bedford; from whom it has descended to the present duke. The site is moated, but there are no remains of the ancient buildings.

The manor of Prestley, in this parish, was purchased of the Jourdans in the year 1495, by the family of Grey. In 1541 Sir James Grey conveyed it to the crown. Queen Elizabeth, in 1560, granted it to Richard Champion and John Thompson. It was purchased of the Thompson family by the Cuthberts, from whom it passed, by a female heir, to the Sheldons. It is now part of the Duke of Bedford's estate, having been purchased of the trustees of Colonel Durham, who married the daughter of Cuthbert Sheldon esq. who died in 1764. The late duke kept this estate in his own hands for the purpose of his agricultural experiments.

GOLDINGTON, in the hundred of Barford, is situated nearly two miles north-east of Bedford. The Hazeldens had a manor in this parish as early as the year 1432^y, which continued in their family at least three centuries. It is now the property of J. Polhill esq. The Gostwicks had another manor^z, which, it is probable, had been in the Beauchamps and Mowbrays. It is now the property of the duke of Bedford, whose grandfather purchased it of the duke of Marlborough in 1774. The great tithes of this parish were appropriated to the priory of Newenham. After the reformation, they were many years in the Hazelden family, and are now the property of Mr. Joseph Addington. The Duke of Bedford is patron of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Bedford. In the church are some memorials of the ancient family of the Hazeldens: that of latest date is the tomb of James Hazelden gent. who died in 1732.

^w Cartulary of Dunstaple Priory in the British Museum.

^x Ibid.

^y Cl. 11 Hen. VI.

^z Cole's Escheats.

The priory of Newenham, above mentioned, was situated in this parish, on the banks of the Ouse, and was founded by Simon de Beauchamp,^a who removed hither some canons regular from the collegiate church of St. Paul at Bedford^a. The revenues of this priory were valued, in the reign of Henry VIII. at 293l. 5s. 11d. clear yearly income. After the dissolution, the manor of Newenham, which had belonged to the priory, was made parcel of the honour of Ampthill, as it still continues, being on lease to the duke of Bedford. The site of the priory was the residence of Sir Robert Catlin, Chief Justice of the King's Bench^b, who died in 1574; and was afterwards the property of William Lord Gobham^c. The present proprietor is Mrs. Mary Best. There are no remains either of the priory or mansion. A wall of brick, with a turret, marks the situation of a court, which, it is probable, adjoined the house.

The castle-mill, and site of Risinghoe castle, are also in Goldington parish. Risinghoe castle is supposed, by Leland, to have belonged to the Especs; but it seems more probable that it was the property of the Beauchamps, who appear, by the Norman survey, to have had the chief property in this parish. The Especs had no lands either in the parish or hundred. Risinghoe mill is mentioned in a charter of Thomas Lord Mowbray, bearing date 1391^d. It is now the duke of Bedford's. The keep of the castle is of considerable height, and adjoining it are large earth-works. The duke of Bedford has also the manor of Putnoe, or Puttenhoe, in this parish, which belonged to the Beauchamps, and was afterwards in the Mowbrays and Gostwicks. The abbot and convent of Warden had also an estate at Puttenhoe. King Henry III. granted them an annual pension of 20 marks, to be paid out of the exchequer, as a compensation for the damage he had done to their woods at Puttenhoe during the siege of Bedford.

UPPER-GRAVENHURST, in the hundred of Flitt, lies about three miles south-west of Shefford. The manor belonged to the abbey of Ramsey, and was granted in 1542 to Sir Henry Grey, from whom it descended to the present proprietor Lady Lucas. The great tithes belong to Trinity College, Cambridge. The benefice, which is in the deanery of Shefford, is a curacy in the gift of the parishioners.

Ion house, in this parish, was sold in 1639 by William Whitbread gent. ancestor of the present member for Bedford, to William Allayne, whose daughter and heir brought it in marriage to John Sabine esq. created a baronet in 1672, being described of Ion-house, which he sold the same year to Morgan Hinde esq. of whose

^a Leland's Collect. ^b Bedfordshire Pedigrees, British Museum. ^c Esch. 39 Eliz.

^d Dugdale's Monast. II. 240.

family it was purchased, in 1724, by the duke of Kent. It is now a farm house, the property of Lady Lucas.

LOWER GRAVENHURST, an adjoining village, is in the same hundred, but in the deanery of Flitt. The manor was anciently in the families of Bocles^c, Zouche^f, and Bilhemore^g. It was many years in the noble family of Grey, and is now the property of their representative Lady Lucas. The church was built by Sir Robert de Bilhemore, as appears by a French inscription on his tomb, without date. In the porch is a coat of arms supposed to be his, a bend within a border engrailed. In the church are monuments of the Pigots. That of Benjamin Pigot esq. who died in 1606, has a genealogical account of the family. His mother (the daughter of Oliver St. John of Bletfoe) was relict of Henry Grey esq. who died in 1545, during his father's life-time, and, by him, mother of three successive earls of Kent,—Reginald, Henry, and Charles. Lower Gravenhurst is a rectory in the gift of the crown.

HARLINGTON, in the hundred of Manshead and deanery of Flitt, lies about two miles north-east of Toddington. The manor was parcel of the barony of Cainhoe belonging to the Albinis, under whom it was held by the Pyrots^h; it is probable, that it passed afterwards to the families of Peyvre or Broughton; for it is certain, that in 1561, it was vested in their representatives the Cheneyⁱ, from whom it passed, by marriage, to the Wentworths, and under the will of Thomas Wentworth, earl of Strafford, who died in 1732, to the present proprietor Henry Vernon esq. son of Lady Harriot Vernon, one of the earl's daughters.

Wood-end, in Harlington, was the seat of a branch of the Astrey family; the first who settled there was a grandson of Sir Ralph Astrey, lord mayor of London, who died in 1494^k. Sir James Astrey of Wood-end was a learned lawyer, and published an edition of Spelman's Glossary with his life^l. After the death of the late Dr. Astrey, Wood-end (which some writers, having mistaken it for Wood-end in Cople, have erroneously described as a seat of the Lukes) was inherited by the present proprietor, Francis Penyston esq. of Cornwell in the county of Oxford. The manor of Wadloes, belonging also to Mr. Penyston, is partly in this parish.

The Wingates had a seat in Harlington, now belonging to their representative, John Wingate Jennings esq. Edmund Wingate the arithmetician, who was sent to France to teach the princess Henrietta Maria (afterwards the queen of Charles I.) English, was of this family. He resided at Harlington during the protectorate of

^c Esch. Edw. II. ^f Ibid. ^g Epitaph in the church.

^h Nomina Villarum, Brit. Mus. ⁱ Cole's Escheats. ^k Bedfordshire Pedigrees in the Brit. Mus.

^l Ant. Wood.

Cromwell. In the year 1654, his name occurs in the Ampthill register, attesting marriages as a justice of peace.

Ralph Pyrot gave the church of Harlington to the prior and convent of Dunstable^m, to whom the great tithes were appropriated. They are now the property of Mr. Vernon, who is patron of the vicarage. In the church are some memorials of the Alfneys.

HAROLD, a small market town on the Ouse, bordering on Northamptonshire, lies in the hundred of Willey, and deanery of Clopham, about nine miles from Bedford. The market is held on Thursday, but is so inconsiderable that it scarcely deserves the name; and indeed, Harold has been overlooked by most writers who have enumerated the market towns of this county. The number of houses in the parish, according to the returns made to Parliament under the Population Act in 1801, was 155, of inhabitants 763. The knights templarsⁿ, and the family of Pabenham^o, appear to have been the principal land owners in this parish, in the thirteenth, and at the beginning of the fourteenth century. As early as the year 1324, the manor was in the noble family of Grey^p. When Henry de Grey, earl of Kent, was created a marquis in 1706, he took his second title from this place; his son Anthony, earl of Harold, who died in his father's life-time, was the only person by whom it was enjoyed. The manor is the property of Lady Lucas as representative of the Greys.

Sampson le Fort, in the year 1150, founded a priory at Harold, in honour of St. Peter, for canons and nuns of the order of St. Nicholas of Arrouafia, but it was afterwards occupied by a prioress and a few nuns of the order of St. Austin. Its revenues, when suppressed, were estimated at 40l. 18s. 2d. clear yearly value. The site was granted, in 1544, to William Lord Parr, and again, in 1555, to John Cheney and William Duncombe^q. It is now a farm house, the property of Lady Lucas. The only part of the conventual building which remains, is the refectory, now a barn, and known by the name of the Hall-barn.

In the parish church, which has a handsome Gothic spire, are memorials of the families of Boteler and Alston; a monument (with her bust) of Mrs. Jolliffe, daughter of Lord Crew; and the tomb of Mrs. Mead, daughter of Sir Rowland Alston of Odell, and widow of Dr. Mead the celebrated physician, who resided at the large house near the church, which devolved to him in right of his wife, and was inherited by his son. It is now the seat of Robert Garstin esq. The great tithes of Harold were appropriated to the priory: the present proprietor of the rectorial

^m Chron. Dunst.

ⁿ Cart. 53 Hen. III.

^o Cart. 5 Edw. II.

^p Esch. 17 Edw. II.

^q Tanner.

estate is Grove Spurgeon Farrer esq. The parish has been exonerated from tithes, in consequence of the inclosure, for which an act of Parliament passed in 1797. The vicar has a small allotment of glebe under this act, and a corn-rent in lieu of his farther interest in the tithes. The parish was then computed to contain 3300 acres. Lady Lucas is patroness of the vicarage.

There is a bridge over the Ouse at Harold, with a long causeway.

HATLEY-PORT, or COCKAYNE-HATLEY, in the hundred of Biggleswade and deanery of Shefford, is a small village two miles from Potton, on the borders of Cambridgeshire. It was anciently the estate of the Argentians and Bryans¹. Sir John Cockayne, lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, who died in 1427, became possessed of this manor, and made it his country-seat². From his family the village obtained the appellation, which distinguishes it from some neighbouring parishes likewise named Hatley in Cambridgeshire. The manor has lately passed by marriage to the family of Cust, and is now the property of Mrs. Lucy Cockayne Cust. In the nave of the parish church is an altar-tomb, stripped of its brass plates, said to be the monument of Chief Baron Cockayne. There are several memorials of this family, from the year 1527 to 1739. In the north aisle is a monument of Sir Patrick Home, who married one of the Cockaynes, and died in 1627.—Mrs. Cust is patroness of the rectory.

HAWNES or HAYNES, anciently HAGNES, in the hundred and deanery of Flitt, lies about five miles from Shefford, and about six and a half from Bedford. The manor was part of the large possessions of the Beauchamps, and passed from them, by inheritance, to the Mowbrays³. It is probable that the marquis of Berkeley, who inherited large property from the Mowbrays, gave it, as he did several other estates, to Sir Reginald Bray; for it appears, that Sir Reginald's great-nephew, Sir Edward Bray, sold it in 1563 to Robert Newdigate esq.⁴. Queen Anne, consort of James I. was entertained by Sir Robert Newdigate at Hawnes, on the 27th and 28th of July 1605, the king being then at Sir Edmund Conquest's at Houghton; on the 30th, the king and queen, with the whole court, attended divine service at Hawnes church⁵. After the death of Sir Robert Newdigate in 1613, Hawnes is supposed to have passed by purchase to the Lukes of Cople, who appear

¹ Cart. 1 Edw. II. and the Nomina Villarum in the British Museum, No. 6281. Harl. MSS.

² Bedfordshire Pedigrees in the British Museum.

³ Dugdale's Baronage and Esch. Ed. III.—Hen. VI.

⁴ Papers in the possession of William Bray esq.

⁵ MSS. of Thomas Archer, rector of Houghton-Conquest, in the possession of the present rector.

to have resided here occasionally, from 1626 to 1654^{*}. After this it was purchased by Sir Humphrey Wynch, who, in 1667, sold it to Sir George Carteret. Sir George was, in 1681, created Baron Carteret of Hawnes; and his lady (being heiress of John Granville, earl of Bath), was in 1714, created Countess Granville. These titles became extinct in 1776, on the death of Richard, the second Earl Granville; when Henry Frederick, second son of Thomas Viscount Weymouth, inheriting this and other his estates, took the name of Carteret, and, in 1784, was created Baron Carteret of Hawnes.

Hawnes house, which consists of two quadrangles, has been modernized, and in great part rebuilt by the present Lord Carteret. Among the pictures are portraits of Margaret, countess of Lenox; Rembrandt's mother[†]; Sir George and lady Carteret; John earl Granville, &c. At the foot of the great stair-case is an ancient view of Longleat, the seat of the Marquis of Bath. In the church is a monument of Anthony Newdigate, one of the commissioners for the sale of abbey lands, who died in 1568; and memorials for Sir John Osborn, bart. of Chicksand, who died in 1699, and others of that family. Hawnes is also the burial-place of the Carterets, but there are no memorials for them in the church.

The church of Hawnes was given by Simon de Beauchamp to the priory of Chicksand, and the advowson having passed, with other estates of that monastery, to the Osborns, is now the property of Sir George Osborn of Chicksand. The vicarage is endowed. Thomas Brightman, author of a Treatise on the Revelations, which attracted much notice in the reign of queen Elizabeth, was vicar of Hawnes. He died in 1607.

HENLOW, in the hundred of Clifton, lies about two miles and a half to the east of Shefford. There are three manors in this parish, one of which was for many generations in the noble family of Grey[‡], and is now the property of their representative Lady Lucas. It was held under the barony of Odell. Another, called Henlow Lanthony, was as early as the year 1293 part of the possessions of the priory of Lanthony near Gloucester[§]. Sir John Clarke died seised of this manor in 1614, leaving two daughters co-heirs, from one of whom it is probable it passed to the family of Edwards, who have possessed it for several generations. It is now the property of Mrs. Elizabeth Edwards, widow. A third manor, called Henlow-Warden, belonged to the abbey of that name. It has long been in the Edwards family, and is now the property of George Edwards esq. son of Mrs. Edwards above-mentioned. In the parish church are several monuments of this family. The

^{*} Parish Register.

[†] The same person whose portrait was engraved for Pennant's tour to Scotland, under the erroneous appellation of the Countess of Desmond. [‡] Esch. Rich. II., &c. [§] Cart. 21 Edw. I.

great tithes of this parish were appropriated to the hospital of St. Julian, near St. Alban's. When the parish was inclosed by an act of Parliament passed in 1795, the vicar, who was entitled to a portion of the great tithes, had a corn-rent assigned him, and a small allotment of land, the remainder of the land allotted in lieu of tithes was assigned to the Edwards family. The vicarage, which is in the gift of the crown, is in the deanery of Shefford.

HIGHAM-GOBION, in the hundred and deanery of Flitt, a small village about nine miles from Luton, a little to the east of the road to Bedford, derived its additional name from the family of Gobion, to whom the manor belonged from an early period till the year 1301^c, when it passed by marriage to the Botelers, in whose possession it continued for many generations. Their arms are still to be seen over the parlour fire-place in the manor-house, now a farm. Sir Henry Boteler of Higham-Gobion died in 1608, leaving a son, Sir John^d. William Langley esq. became possessed of this estate in 1639. In 1641 he was created a baronet, being described of Higham-Gobion. His son, Sir Roger, in 1657, sold the manor to Arabella, countess of Kent, from whom it descended to the present proprietor, the Right Hon. Lady Lucas.

This place was the residence of the learned Dr. Castell, author of the Polyglott Bible, who lived here in obscure retirement, till he fell a victim to his intense application to study, which a short time before his death deprived him of his eyesight. Dr. Castell was buried in Higham-Gobion church, where is a monument to his memory, with the following inscription: "*Edmundus Castell, S.T.D. Regiæ Majestati Carolo II. a sacris, Ecclesiæ Christi Cantuarensis Canonicus, Linguae Arabicæ apud Cantabrigienses Professor, Regalis Societatis Socius, author Lexicon Heptaglotti, necnon hujus ecclesiæ Rector. Mortalitatis quod reliquum est tam ipsi quam lectissimæ ejus conjugi Dominæ Elizabethæ Bettefworth, Petri Bettefworth militis aurati primò relictæ, deinde Joannis Harris Arm. (cujus filius Willielmus una cum filiâ ejus Elizabethâ hic jacent) Anno Ætat. Edmundi 68, Dæ. Elizabethæ 64—Anno Christi 1674.—Vivus hic legat humandum.*" The advowson of the rectory is vested in Richard Lee esq. as trustee for the children of the Rev. Mr. Mead of Dunstable, who is the present incumbent.

HOCKLIFFE, in the hundred of Manshead and deanery of Dunstable, is a great thoroughfare on the ancient Watling-street, now the high road from London to Chester. At this village, which is about five miles beyond Dunstable, the great road through Woburn to Manchester and Liverpool branches off. Its situation is low,

^c Esch. 29 Edw. I.

^d MS. Diary of Thomas Archer, rector of Houghton-Conquest.

which

which was the occasion of its having acquired the appellation of Hockliffe, or Hockley in the Hole; it was noted for its miry road, which of late years has been much improved. The manor belonged to the monastery of Woburn^e. In 1615, it was granted to Thomas Hillersden esq. and in 1712, was purchased of his descendants by Allen Lord Bathurst, who, in 1718, sold it to John Reynal esq. It is now the property of Francis Moore esq. of Egginton, in right of his wife, who was relict of the late J. S. W. Reynal esq. In the parish church, which stands on a hill at some distance from the high road, are tombs of the family of Gilpin, one of whom, Robert Gilpin, died rector of the parish, in 1640: his wife survived him 50 years, and died at the age of 97. Richard Gilpin esq. is now patron of the rectory. There was an ancient hospital at Hockliffe, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, of which there are no remains. It existed as early as the reign of king John^f.

HOLWELL, in the hundred of Clifton and deanery of Shefford, is a small village on the borders of Hertfordshire, about three miles from Hitchin, a little to the west of the road from that town to Shefford. Henry Spigurnell had a charter of free-warren in Holwell, in the reign of Edward II. The manor was soon afterwards in the family of Malore^g. On the attainder of Sir Robert Belknap, one of the justices of the common pleas in 1392, being then parcel of his estate, it was granted to John de Burton and others^h, and was afterwards in the family of Kynbellⁱ. Not many years ago it was in the Foresters, from whom, either by purchase or inheritance, it passed to Baldwin Leighton esq. who, in 1765, sold it to the late John Radcliffe esq. It is now the property of the Right Hon. Lady Frances Radcliffe his widow. The manor is styled Holwell the Great, otherwise Holwell and Codicot. The advowson of the rectory, which belonged also to the late John Radcliffe esq. was purchased in 1673, by his ancestor Sir Ralph Radcliffe of the Nodes, who were for a short time proprietors of the manor. It is now the property of Mr. Delmé Radcliffe, who married Miss Clarke, the niece and heiress of the late John Radcliffe esq. The parish of Holwell has been inclosed by an act of Parliament passed in 1802, when an allotment of land was given to the rector in lieu of tithes. Mark Hilderley, bishop of Sodor and Man, was rector of this parish 35 years.

HOUGHTON-CONQUEST, which lies in the hundred of Redborn-stoke, and deanery of Bedford, about two miles and a half north-east of Ampthill, takes its

^e Cooper's History of Odell in Bibl. Top. Brit. ^f Tanner.

^g Nomina Villarum in the British Museum, No. 6281. Harl. MSS. ^h Pat. 15 Rich. II.

ⁱ Cl. 3 Hen. V.

additional name from the ancient family of Conquest, who were possessed of the manor before the year 1298¹. The male line of this family became extinct in Benedict Conquest esq. (father of the present Lady Arundel), of whom this manor was purchased by the late Earl of Upper Offory in 1741. It is now the property of the present earl. The seat of the Conquests was called Houghton-Bury, or Conquest-Bury. In 1605, king James paid a visit to Sir Edmund Conquest, and slept at Houghton on the 27th and 28th of July, the queen being at the same time at Sir Richard Newdigate's, at Hawnes. On the 28th, it being the feast day at Houghton, the king with his court, consisting of the Duke of Lenox, the Earls of Northampton, Suffolk, Salisbury, Devonshire, and Pembroke, the Lords Knollys, Wotton, and Stanhope, and Bishop Watson, his almoner, attended divine service at the parish church^m. The little that remains of the old mansion at Houghton-Bury is now a farm house; the building is of brick and timber; the eaves are ornamented with grotesque figures carved in wood.

Another manor in this parish belonged to the barons St. Amand, and was held in dower by Eleanor Lady St. Amandⁿ, who, in 1415, petitioned parliament against Lord Grey of Ruthin, for redress on account of several outrages committed in her park at Ampthill and elsewhere^o. From this lady the manor acquired the name of Dame-Ellensbury Manor.—It passed, with other estates that had been in the St. Amands, to Lord Fanhope, and was afterwards the property of Sir William Gascoigne, who surrendered it to the king in 1538. From this time the history of Dame-Ellensbury manor and Dame-Ellensbury park, or Houghton park, are somewhat different till they were again united in the Bruce family. The Manor was retained in the hands of the crown, till granted by king Charles I. to Ditchfield and others, who in 1630, conveyed it to Sir Francis Clerke: Sir Francis died in 1632, and his representatives not long afterwards sold it to the Pigots, from whom it passed again by purchase, in 1665, to the Earl of Aylesbury^p.

Houghton park, otherwise Dame-Ellensbury park, was occupied in the early part of king James's reign by Sir Edmund Conquest, as keeper. In 1615, he made over his interest in it to Matthew Lister and Leonard Welstead, trustees for the celebrated Mary countess of Pembroke^q, "Sidney's sister, Pembroke's mother," who holding the park under the crown in her widowhood, built a splendid mansion of which the shell now remains. In 1630, Houghton park was granted in fee to Lord Bruce^r, and was for a considerable time the country-seat of his descendants, who were Earls of Elgin and Aylesbury. Here the celebrated Christian Countess of Devonshire, spent three years in retirement at the house of her

¹ Esch. 26 Edw. I.^m Mr. Archer's Notes in the parish register.ⁿ See Cl. 19 H. VI^o Rot. Parl. IV. 92.^p Duke of Bedford's Records.^q Ibid.^r Ibid.

brother the Earl of Elgin, after the battle of Worcester in 1651, "lightening," as the author of her life observes, "her griefs and her expences." But even in this retirement, her ardent loyalty exposed her to some risks; a troop of horse being ordered to fetch her from hence up to London, at the time that the countess of Carlisle was imprisoned in the tower; but she escaped the danger by a bribe bestowed on one of the council of state. In 1738, John Duke of Bedford purchased Houghton park, with the manor of Dame-Ellensbury, of the Earl of Aylesbury; and in 1801, in consequence of an exchange with the late Duke, they both became the property of the Earl of Offory. Houghton-park house was fitted up for the Marquis of Tavistock, father of the present Duke of Bedford, who resided there till his untimely death; after which, it was for a short time occupied by Lord Offory, as tenant: it has never since been inhabited. In 1794, it was unroofed and reduced to a shell by the late Duke of Bedford, and most of the materials were used in building the Swan inn at Bedford.

Fuller and some other writers have called this mansion Ampthill House. It must be observed, that in his time there was no capital mansion in Ampthill park, and that part of Houghton-park house stands within the parish of Ampthill. On the north front of this house was a lozenge shield with the arms and quarterings of Sydney, and an earl's coronet; on the south front there still remain, on the frieze, various monograms and devices of the families of Sydney and Dudley. The ruins of the house stand on an elevated spot at the end of an avenue, which reaches into the vale of Bedford.

In Houghton park they shew a tree under which Sir Philip Sydney is said to have written some of his works; but it is evident that the tradition is totally void of foundation, since Sir Philip died, many years before his sister, the Countess of Pembroke, had any property or interest in Houghton park.

Lord Offory has another estate in this parish, called the Manor of Houghton-How-end, which belonged to the abbot and convent of Reading, and after the reformation to the Conquests.

An estate in this parish called the Manor of Houghton-Conquest, or Bryttons, alias Groves in Houghton-Conquest, was the property of Lord Wenlock, after whose death it passed to the Rotherams, and at a later period was, together with another estate in this parish, called the Manor of Flamwells, in the family of Wylde. Sir Edmund Wylde died seised of them in 1620^s. They are now the property of Dr. Macqueen in right of his wife, who was daughter and heir of the late Thomas Potter esq. one of his majesty's justices for Wales.

^s Cole's Escheats. Brit. Mus.

The manor of Beadlow, partly in this parish and partly in Clophill, belonged for many years to the Charnocks of Hulcote; from them it passed by marriage to the Herveys of Chilton in Buckinghamshire, in the representatives of which family it is now vested.

In the parish church are some memorials of the Conquest family. In the chancel is the monument of Thomas Archer, rector of Houghton-Conquest, instituted in the reign of queen Elizabeth, who inserted various historical notes in the parish register and in a large note book, now in the possession of the present rector, the Rev. Dr. Pearce, Master of Jesus College in Cambridge. It appears, from these notes, that he preached before the king at Hawnes, July 30, 1605, on the following singular text from the Song of Solomon. "Take us the foxes, the little foxes which destroy the grapes, for our vines have small grapes." The sermon, it is to be supposed, pleased his majesty, for the preacher was immediately afterwards sworn one of his chaplains in ordinary. He preached before the king and queen at Toddington, July 24, 1608, and before the king at Bletsoe, July 26, 1612. "Anno 1623," says Mr. Archer in the parish register, "I caused my grave to be made with brick, and I made my coffin whereon are set these figures 1623." The following epitaph is of his own writing :

" Instruxi vivens multos
 Nunc instruo cunctos
 Quod struit una dies
 Destruit una dies.
 Sic speciosa ruit
 Spatiofi fabrica mundi
 Sic oritur, moritur,
 Vermis, inermis, homo.
 O me felicem
 Qui carnis fasce solutus
 Mutavi veris vitrea
 Vana bonis.
 Fui Thomas Archer
 Capellanus Regis Jacobi
 Rector hujus ecclesie
 per annos XLI.
 In vita hoc posui
 Anno Domini MDCXXIX.
 Anno Ætatis LXXVI
 Veniet qui me in lucem
 reponet dies.

The effigies of the deceased, who died in 1631, is represented in canonicals, in his pulpit, with a cushion and book before him. In the chancel is the monument also
of

of Dr. Zachary Grey, rector of Houghton, editor of *Hudibras*, and a commentator on Shakspeare, with the following inscription :

“ Sacred to the memory of Zachary Grey, L.L.D. late rector of this parish, who with zeal undiffembled served his God, with love and affection endeared himself to his family, with sincerity unaffected promoted the interest of his friends, and with real charity and extensive humanity behaved towards all mankind. He died, Nov. 25, 1766, aged 78.”

The church of Houghton was formerly divided into two portionable parsonages, called Houghton-Franchise, and Houghton-Gildable. There were two parsonage houses, one of which was moated ; the parsonages were united by the King's special command in 1637 into one rectory called Houghton-Conquest, to which Edward Martin was then inducted as the first rector¹. The advowson was sold by the Conquests to St. John's College in Cambridge.

A free-school and alms-house were founded at Houghton-Conquest by Sir Francis Clerke, the great benefactor to Sidney Suffex College in Cambridge, who had a seat in this parish, and died there in 1632. The master's salary is 16l. per annum, and the poor people, who are six in number, have 8l. divided between them, under Sir Francis Clerke's will. Edmund Wylde esq. in 1691, left the sum of 140l. for the purchase of lands, the profits of which are to be appropriated to the repairs of the school and alms-house, the overplus to be divided among the six poor people.

HOUGHTON-REGIS, in the hundred of Manhead, lies about a mile and a half from Dunstable, on the road to Toddington. The manor was anciently, as the name of the place imports, part of the royal demesne. At a very early period it became the property of the Cantilupes, barons of Bergavenny². From them it passed by a female heir to the Zouches of Harringworth, who became possessed of it in 1273³. It was afterwards in the Brays ; Sir Edward Bray conveyed it in 1567⁴ to Lewis Montgomery, and Jane his wife⁵. In the early part of the 17th century, this manor belonged to the Egertons, Earls of Bridgwater⁶. In 1653, it became the property of the Brandreths ; and now belongs to the Duke of Bedford, whose grandfather purchased it of the Brandreths in 1750. The Duke has also the manor of Sewell in this parish, which was included in the same purchase. It was formerly the seat of an ancient family of that name, and afterwards belonged to the Dyves. It is now a farm-house. The Brandreths bought it, with the advowson of Houghton-Regis, of Sir Lewis Dye, of Bromham, an officer in the army of King Charles I. There is an

¹ Parish Register. ² Chron. Dunst. and Dugdale's Baronage. ³ Ibid.

⁴ 20th November, 9 Elizabeth. ⁵ Papers communicated by William Bray esq. F.A.S.

⁶ Duke of Bedford's Papers.

ancient monument in Houghton church, with the effigies of a man in armour, under a rich Gothic arch, which has the arms of Sewell; a chevron between three butterflies. There are several memorials also for the Brandreths. Henry Brandreth esq. the representative of that family, has a seat at Houghton, and possesses the impropriate rectory which formerly belonged to the priory of Dunstable, to which monastery they were confirmed by King Henry II. The Duke of Bedford is patron of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Dunstable. This parish has been inclosed by an act of parliament passed in 1796, when allotments of land were assigned to the impropiator and vicar in lieu of tithes. The commons and wastes in the parish were then computed at 4000 acres.

HULCOTE, in the hundred of Manshead, and deanery of Flitt, is a very small village on the borders of Buckinghamshire, about 11 miles South West of Bedford. The manor belonged anciently to the Firmbands and Wydvilles^a, and at a later period to a branch of the Charnocks of Lancashire, who settled at Hulcote in the reign of Henry VII. or Henry VIII.^b John Charnock esq. of Hulcote, was created a Baronet in 1661. The title became extinct by the death of Sir Villiers Charnock in 1779. In consequence of the marriage of two of his sisters with the Herveys of Chilton in Buckinghamshire, the manor of Hulcote is now the joint property of five ladies of that family. The old manor house, built by Richard Charnock, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, has lately been pulled down. This Richard Charnock was three times sheriff for the county; he rebuilt the parish church of Hulcote at his own expence, as appears by the inscription on his monument. There are several other memorials for the family in the church. Mrs. Barbara Hervey, who is one of the joint proprietors of the manor, is sole patroness of the rectory, which is united with that of the neighbouring parish of Salford.

HUSBORN-CRAWLEY, in the hundred of Manhead, and deanery of Flitt, lies on the borders of Buckinghamshire, about eleven miles north-west of Bedford. In the chronicle of Dunstable, Husborn, or Hufseborn, and Crawley, seem to be spoken of as two places^c, although one parish, the church being at Husborn. The manor belonged anciently to the Earls of Albemarle, and afterwards to the families of Flitwick^d and Finaunce^e. In the seventeenth century it was in the Thompsons. In 1691, it was purchased of Sir John Thompson, by John Lowe; and in 1721, of Francis Lowe esq. by Wriothesly, Duke of Bedford^f, from whom it has de-

^a Cart. 21 Edward I. and Cart. 39 Edward III. ^b Baronetage. ^c See particularly Anno 1251.

^d Chron. Dunst. ^e Esch. 37 Henry VI. ^f Duke of Bedford's Records.

scended to the present Duke. In the church is a handsome monument, with the effigies of a knight in armour, and his lady, under a canopy supported by Doric columns: it has no inscription, but by the arms appears to be that of one of the Thompson family. The impropriate rectory and advowson of the vicarage, which formerly belonged to the priory of Dunstable, were purchased of the Thompsons, by the ancestors of the Rev. E. Williamson, who conveyed them to the late Duke of Bedford in 1795. The same year an act of parliament passed for inclosing the parish, when an allotment was assigned to the impropriator in lieu of tithes. In 1796, this vicarage (which was endowed in 1220, as appears by the chronicle of Dunstable) was consolidated with Aspley-Guise.

KEMPSTON, in the hundred of Redbornstoke, lies about three miles north-west of Bedford. The manor of Kempston-Daubeny, which has been commonly deemed the paramount manor, was granted in 1309 to John de Britannia, Earl of Richmond^g, and in 1337, to William Daubeny^h. This manor, which appears to have been afterwards in the Braysⁱ, together with another manor, which passed by an heir female from the family of Fisher to the St. Johns, and has been known by the name of Kempston-Fishers, and Kempston-St. Johns^k, were both in the seventeenth century in the family of Snagg, of whom they were purchased, early in the last century, by the ancestor of Robert Dennis esq. of Kempston, the present proprietor.

Another manor called Kempston-Greys, otherwise Hastingsbury, was parcel of the dower of Maud, Countess of Huntingdon, and afterwards of her daughter-in-law, Helen, Countess of Chester, having been successively in the families of Brus, Baliol, and Hastings, who married the co-heiresses of John Earl of Chester^l, it passed from the latter by a female heir to the Greys. In the reign of James I. it was the property of Sir Edward Cater, of whose representatives it has been lately purchased by the present proprietor, William Long esq.

William de Bohun had free warren in Hardwyck, a hamlet of this parish, in 1328^m. After the attainder of his descendant the Duke of Buckingham, in 1460,

^g Cart. 2 Edward III. ^h Pat. 11 Edward III.

ⁱ Sir Edward Bray was possessed of it 9 Eliz. It had probably been then some time in the family of Bray. Papers communicated by William Bray esq. F.A.S.

^k A record of the year 1419, (7 Henry V.) See Placit. &c. in Com. Bedford in Turr. Lond. speaks of a manor of Draytons in Kempston, concerning which there was then a lawsuit between the guardians of Sir John Drayton's daughter and others. It is probable that this was the estate, which was afterwards called Kempston-Fishers, and Kempston-St. Johns.

^l Dugdale's Baronage, and Esch. ^m Cart. 2 Edward III.

the manor of Kempston-Hardwyck was in the family of Bowton. Edward Bowton conveyed it to Henry VIII. in 1542: it was afterwards in the families of Long^a and Fitzwilliam^o. This manor having been for a considerable time in the Cater family, was purchased of their representatives by Mr. Long. The great tithes of Kempston were appropriated to the priory of Caldwell and to Elstow Abbey. The present impropiators are George Livius esq.; Thomas Gurney esq.; and F. G. Spurgeon Farrer esq.: Mr. Aspinall, the present incumbent, is patron of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Bedford. The parish of Kempston has been inclosed by an act of parliament passed in 1802, when allotments of land were assigned to the impropiators, and to the vicar, who was entitled to all the small tithes, as well as to the great tithes of the Holmes.

KEYSOE, in the hundred of Stodden, and deanery of Eaton, lies in the north part of the county, about eleven miles from Bedford. There were formerly two manors in this parish, called Keyfoe-Berrysted, and Keyfoe-Grange, both of which became united in the St. John family. One of these manors was granted by Edward I. in 1297 to Walter Lord Teyes^p, from whom it passed by heirs female to the Patshulls^q, Beauchamps, and St. Johns. The other appears to have belonged to the Peyvres^r, and Dayrells^s, before it came into the possession of the St. Johns, a branch of which family had a feat at Keyfoe. The manor was purchased of the last Earl of Bolingbroke, about the year 1700, by the ancestors of John Crawley esq. of Stockwood, near Luton, who is the present proprietor.

The parish church which is a handsome Gothic building, has no monumental inscriptions of any note. On the outside is a tablet, commemorating the providential escape of a man who fell from the top of the spire. The church of Keyfoe was given by Simon de Beauchamp to the priory of Chicksand. The impropriation is now vested in the master and scholars of Trinity College, Cambridge, who are patrons of the vicarage. Mr. Crawley is lessee under the college. An act for inclosing this parish passed in 1803, when allotments, in lieu of tithes, were assigned to the impropiators and to the vicar.

KNOTTING, in the hundred of Stodden and deanery of Clopham, is a small village on the borders of Northamptonshire, about eleven miles from Bedford. It lies a little to the north of the Higham-Ferrers road. It was for several years a manor and feat of the Pyes of Berkshire, of whom it was purchased in 1774, for the late Duke of Bedford during his minority. The manor house is now occupied

^a Esch. Eliz. ^o Esch. Jac. ^p Cart. 2 Edw. I. ^q Esch. Edw. III. ^r Cl. Hen. III.
^s Cl. Hen. VI.

as a farm. The Duke of Bedford is patron of the rectory, which has been united to Souldrop.

LANGFORD, in the hundred of Bigglefwade, lies about four miles north-east of Shefford. The manor was parcel of the barony of Odell, and the fee continued in the family of the Wahuls or Wodhulls¹, Lords of that Barony, till the reign of Edward IV. Of late years it has been for a considerable time in the family of Browne, of which the late Mrs. Schutz was the heiress. The church of Westminster has also a manor in this parish. The rectory was appropriated to the knights hospitallers, and afterwards, by a grant bearing date 1547, to Fotheringay College in Northamptonshire. The present proprietor of the great tithes and rectorial manor is Sir John Fagg bart. in right of his wife, who was daughter of Mr. Newman of Canterbury. The vicarage, which is in the deanery of Shefford, is in the gift of the crown.

LEIGHTON-BUSARD, in the hundred of Manshead and deanery of Dunstaple, is a market-town on the borders of Buckinghamshire, forty-one miles from London. It is supposed to have been the Lygeanburgh of the Saxon Chronicle, which was taken from the Britons by Cuthwulph in 571. It has been conjectured that the addition of Buffard or Buzzard is a corruption of Beaudefert, which name, indeed, occurs in some old papers; but in the most ancient records the name of the town is written Leighton-Bofard, and sometimes Bufard or Buzzard. The family of Bofard or Boffard, from whom it seems to have derived its additional name, were of consequence in the county, and knights of the shire, in the reigns of Edward II. and Edward III.²

The market which is on Tuesdays, is one of the most ancient in the county; the tolls were valued at 7l. per annum at the time of the Norman survey. There are six fairs, viz. February 5, the second Tuesday in April, Whitfun Tuesday, July 26, October 24, and the second Tuesday in December. Two of these were granted to Eton College in 1447, the second and last are of modern date; some of these fairs are noted for a large sale of horses. In the market-place is a beautiful Gothic cross of a pentagonal form, with figures of Kings, &c. The assizes for the county were held at Leighton in July 1657. The number of houses in Leighton parish, (exclusive of the hamlets,) according to the returns made to parliament in 1801 pursuant to the Population Act, was 376, that of inhabitants 1963.

The manor of Leighton, which was part of the ancient demesne of the crown, is now held on lease under the church of Windfor, by the Hon. Mary Leigh, sister of

¹ Esch. Edw. IV. Thomas Reynes who held the manor of Langford under the Wahuls, paid a fine for alienation, anno 50 Edward III. ² Willis's Notit. Parl.

the late Lord Leigh of Stonely in Warwickshire, whose ancestor Sir John Leigh acquired it about the year 1600, by marrying the daughter and heir of Sir Christopher Hoddefdon^u.

King Henry II. granted a manor in Leighton to the abbess and Cistercian nuns, of Font-Everard, in Normandy, who established a cell of foreign monks in this parish, at a place called Grovebury^x, the prior of which was procurator-general for the concerns of the abbey of Font-Everard, in England. In 1316, this manor was held under the abbess, by Mary the king's sister, who was a nun at Ambresbury^y. In 1411, the abbess of Font-Everard had the king's licence to alienate the manor of Grovebury to John Worship^z. In 1413, it was purchased by Sir John Phelip, who settled it upon his wife Alice, a grand-daughter of the poet Chaucer, and their joint heirs^a. It seems to have been seized by the crown, on the death of her third husband, William Duke of Suffolk; for, in 1472, it was granted for life to the duchess, as a compensation in part for a debt due to her from the crown^b. It was enjoyed also by her son John Duke of Suffolk, who jointly with Elizabeth his wife, the king's sister, granted the manor of Grovebury, alias Leighton-Bosford, to Windfor College^c. The Hoddefdons and Leighs held this manor on lease under the College. In 1668, Thomas Lord Leigh assigned the lease to Dr. George Bate, physician to King Charles II.; from his family it passed to the Powneys; and about 1776, from them to William Villiers Lewis esq. father of William Villiers Villiers esq. the present lessee.

Besides the alien priory before-mentioned, bishop Tanner says, there seems to have been a house of Cistercian monks in Leighton, which was a cell to Woburn abbey.

In the parish church, which is a handsome Gothic building, are monuments for the family of Leigh, among which are those of the Hon. Charles Leigh, who died in 1704, and his daughter Alice, Baroness Altham, who died in 1684. There are monuments also for the families of Wingate, Welles, and Wilkes. In the nave is a tablet to the memory of John Pulford, M. A. who died in 1710. "He made an augmentation," says his epitaph, "to the poor vicarage of Leighton, with a liberality not unworthy the greatest prelate." This augmentation produces now, in lands and money, about 60*l. per annum*. The survey of Doomsday states the rectory of Leighton, then the property of Remigius, bishop of Lincoln, to consist of four hides of land. The rectorial manor is now a prebendal corps in that church, to which the bishop collates. The lease has been held, with that of the principal manor, by the Hoddefdons and Leighs, and is now vested in the Hon.

^u Collins' Peerage.

^x Dugdale's Monast. vol. ii.

^y Nomina Villarum in the British Museum.

^z Pat. 12 Hen. IV.

^a Pat. 1 Hen. V.

^b Pat. 12 Edw. IV.

^c Pat. 20 Edw. IV.

Mrs. Mary Leigh. The prebendary is patron of the vicarage. William Sclater, a divine of some note, in the 17th century, was son of Anthony Sclater, who enjoyed the vicarage of Leighton-Bufard fifty years, and lived to be nearly a hundred years of age^d. There was a fraternity or brotherhood in the church of Leighton: a part of their hall is still standing in Broad-street not far from the cross.

At the entrance of the town, is an alms-house for eight poor widows, founded by Matthew Wilkes in 1630. Their allowance is 3s. a week each, besides firing and clothes. The Hon. Mrs. Leigh, about the year 1790, built a house for the Sunday-schools, to which she subscribes 20l. *per annum*.

Heath, commonly called Heath-and-Reach, Billington, Egginton, Stanbridge, and Clipson, are hamlets in this parish: the four first have chapels of ease. Heath-and-Reach lies about two miles from Leighton; Billington and Egginton about the same distance. In the returns made to Parliament in 1801, pursuant to the Population Act, all these hamlets, excepting Clipson, were numbered separately from Leighton; Stanbridge is stated to have 57 houses, and 262 inhabitants; Billington 39 houses, and 200 inhabitants; Egginton 44 houses, and 206 inhabitants; Heath-and-Reach 111 houses, and 541 inhabitants. The manor of Egginton, which, during the last century, passed through several hands, was lately the property of John Bond esq. and now of George Goodwin esq.

There are now three manors in Stanbridge, two of which it is probable belonged to the ancient family of Chamberleyne; since one of them is to be traced to the Fowlers, and the other to the Morteynes, both of which families inherited estates by female heirs from the Chamberleynes, who possessed the manor in the year 1323^e. The manor of Stanbridge, as it is now called, was in the Fowlers about the latter end of the 16th century, afterwards in the families of Iremonger and Baldwin. From the latter it descended to the Rev. Mr. Pitman, of whom it was purchased by the husband of the present proprietor, Mrs. Gurney. The manor of Morteynes, *alias* Reynes descended by a female heir from the Morteynes to the Dicons. In 1547, it was purchased by the family of Reynes of Clifton-Reynes. After several intermediate conveyances, it came into possession of the Brandreths about the year 1700, and having passed by marriage to the Duncombes, was purchased of Brandreth Duncombe esq. in 1786, by John Franklin esq. the present proprietor. Another manor called Morrells, from a family who possessed it in the reign of Henry VI. was at that time called the manor of Stanbridge, and is supposed to have been the principal manor, since that, which is now called the manor of Stanbridge, then paid a quit-rent to it. From the Morrells, this manor passed to the family of Brocas, and from them to the Ellinghams, who were in possession at least 150 years. In 1746,

^d. Fuller's Worthies. . . ^e Placit. &c. de terris in Com. Bed. in Turr. Lond.

Thomas Ellingham conveyed it to John Capon and John Franklin. It is now the sole property of John Franklin esq. of Rushmore.

In the chapel at Stanbridge is a monument in memory of Henry Honner and Jane his wife, who lived together in wedlock about 60 years: he died in 1627, at the age of 95; she in 1629, at the age of 86. There have been no burials in the other chapels, nor have they any cemeteries.

LIDLINGTON, or LITLINGTON, in the hundred of Redbornstoke and deanery of Flitt, lies three miles and a half west of Ampthill, and about 8 miles south-west of Bedford. The manor, which had been parcel of the possessions of the abbess and convent of Barking, was conveyed to King Henry VIII. by Dorothy Barleigh the last abbess, two years before the surrender of that monastery. Having for many years belonged to the family of Chester, who had a seat at Litlington, it was sold by the representatives of the last baronet, in 1769, to Mr. Isaac Hawkins; who, in 1774, conveyed it to the late earl of Upper Ossory. It is now the property of the Duke of Bedford, in consequence of an exchange which took place in 1801, between the late duke, and the present earl of Ossory.

The manor of Goldingtons, in this parish, belonged to a family of that name, one of whom lies buried in the parish church. On the tomb is his effigy on a brass plate, in armour, with an imperfect date (148..) This estate belonged afterwards to the family of Reynes, from whom it passed by marriage to the Dicones. Soon after the year 1600 it was in the Snaggs^h, of Marston-Morteyne, who possessed it for more than a century. It is now the property of Earl Spencer. The tithes of this parish were formerly appropriated to the abbey of Barking, in Essex. Under the Inclosure Act which passed in 1775, an allotment of land was assigned in lieu of tithes to the earl of Upper Ossory, then impropiator. The rectorial allotment was included in the exchange before-mentioned.

LUTON, in the hundred of Flitt and deanery of Dunstable, is a considerable market town on the borders of Hertfordshire. It lies on the road from London to Ampthill and Bedford, near the 31st milestone. The market, which is on Monday, is noted for its abundant supply of corn. It is of great antiquity, being mentioned in the survey of Doomsday, where the tolls are valued at 100s. *per annum*. There are two annual fairs, April 18th and October 18th. The number of houses in the parish, according to the returns made to Parliament in 1801, pursuant to the Population Act, was 612, of inhabitants 3095.

The manor of Luton, having been part of the royal demesne, was given by

^a Esch. Edw VI. ^b Esch. Car. I.

William the Conqueror to Geoffrey, earl of Perchⁱ. By a subsequent grant it became the property of Robert, earl of Gloucester^k, and having again reverted to the crown, was granted by King Stephen, to Richard Waudari^l, and afterwards by King Richard I. to Baldwin de Betun, earl of Albemarle^m. William Mareſhall, earl of Pembroke, who married the earl of Albemarle's daughter and heir, gave it to the famous Fulk de Brent, who, in 1216, obtained a confirmation from king John of the honour of Lutonⁿ. It is probable that the caſtle built at Luton in 1221, which is repreſented in the chronicle of Dunſtable as having been very prejudicial to the neighbouring town, was one of the fortrefſes of this haughty and oppreſſive baron.

Upon the baniſhment of De Brent, Luton was re-granted to the earl of Pembroke, who, thus, as the above-mentioned Chronicle obſerves, recovered what with fooliſh prodigality had been given away^o. Eleanor, widow of William Mareſhall, earl of Pembroke, ſiſter of king Henry III., who married to her ſecond huſband, Simon de Montford, Earl of Leiſceſter, held the manor of Luton in dower till her death, which happened in 1274^p: it then devolved to the repreſentatives of Sibil, Counteſs of Derby, who was one of the co-heireſſes of William Mareſhall the elder, earl of Pembroke, and died many years before, leaving ſeven daughters, two of whom brought parts of this manor into the families of Mohun and Kyme^q. From one of theſe it is probable a part paſſed to the family of Bonham, who had ſome ſhare of the manor in the reign of Edward II.^r; but the greater part, and it is probable the whole eventually, became veſted by purchaſe of the other ſeveralties in the family of Hugh de Mortimer, who married Agatha, one of the co-heireſſes of the above-mentioned Counteſs of Derby. This branch of the Mortimers became extinct in the male line in the fourth generation after this match^s. John Creſſey, as their couſin and heir, was lord of the manor of Luton in 1403^t. Soon after this it appears to have been veſted in the crown, for in 1406, king Henry V. granted the manor of Luton-Mortimer to John, Duke of Bedford, regent of France^u.

The next poſſeſſor on record is John Lord Wenlock, whoſe family appears to have owned eſtates in Luton at an earlier period^v. Leland ſays, that this Lord Wenlock, who was killed at the battle of Tewkeſbury in 1472, left an heir-general,

ⁱ Dugdale's Baronage. ^k Lives of the abbots of St. Alban's, annexed to Mat. Paris. ^l Ibid.

^m Cart. Antiq. infra Tur. Lond. ⁿ Pat. 18 Joh. ^o Hearne's Chron. Dunst. ^p Ibid. ^q Eſch. Edw. I. and Dugdale's Baronage. ^r Records of Luton manor communicated by Mr. Brown.

^s Dugdale. ^t Records of Luton Manor. ^u Pat. 4 Henry V.

^v Lord Wenlock's grandfather was a Wyvell; he married into the family of Wenlock and aſſumed the name. William Wenlock, prebendary of Brownſwood, who died in 1392, had eſtates in Luton. He was brother to Joan Wenlock, who married Lord Wenlock's grandfather. Sir Thomas Wenlock, who was knight of the ſhire in the three firſt years of King Henry VI. was, it is probable, of this family.

who married a kinsman of archbishop Rotheram, one of the founders of Lincoln College in Oxford. Others have supposed that the Luton estates were granted by King Edward IV. to the archbishop, as attainted property^x. The family alliance, mentioned by Leland, is not to be found in any of the pedigrees in the heralds college. It appears on record, that certain houses in London which had devolved to the crown, not by the attainder, but by the death of Lord Wenlock without issue, were granted in 1475 to Thomas Rotheram, then bishop of Lincoln^y. The grant of Luton does not appear on record. It is certain that John Rotheram, brother of the bishop, was lord of the manor of Luton and the hundred of Flitt in 1476^z, and that Thomas Lawley esq. who by pedigrees of the family, appears to have been heir-general of Lord Wenlock, conveyed Luton and several manors or farms in that parish to bishop Rotheram, in 1477^a. This conveyance, it is probable, might have been obtained for the greater security of the title, even if there had been a grant from the crown. The manor of Luton continued in the Rotheram family till the year 1614, when it was purchased by Sir Robert Napier bart. of Mercheston, in Scotland^b. Sir John Napier, the last heir-male of that family, who died in 1747, bequeathed it to his aunt, Mrs. Frances Napier, by whose bequest it became the property of Francis Herne esq. Mr. Herne, in 1763, sold it to John, earl of Bute, whose son (created Marquis of Bute in 1796) is the present proprietor, and has his chief country seat at Luton-Hoo in this parish.

The manor of Hoo, or Luton-Hoo, was the ancient inheritance of the family of Hoo, or De Hoo, who are said by Sir Henry Chauncy to have been settled there before the Norman conquest^c. Sir Robert de Hoo was knight of the shire in the reign of Edward I. Sir Thomas Hoo, K. G. who was made Lord Hoo, of Hoo, in Bedfordshire, and Lord Hastings in 1447, died in 1454 without male issue. Anne, his only daughter by his second wife, brought this manor in marriage to Sir Geoffrey Boleyn, who was lord mayor of London in 1460. The tradition of the place is, that his great-grand-daughter, Anne Boleyn, queen to King Henry VIII. was born at this place. Her father sold the manor of Luton-Hoo in 1523 to Richard Farmer, merchant, whose heir conveyed it in 1575 to John Brocket esq. In 1601 it was purchased of Mr. Brocket's representatives by Robert Napier esquire^d, and passed with the manor of Luton to the Marquis of Bute.

Luton-Hoo, the marquis's seat, stands in the midst of a well-wooded park about three miles from the town. The old park, which consisted of about 300 acres, inclosed by Sir Robert Napier, was enlarged to 1200 by the late Lord Bute,

^x History of Luton in Bib. Top. Brit. p. 14, 26, and 31. ^y Pat. 15 Edw. IV. ^z Records of Luton Manor. ^a Cl. 17 Edw. IV. ^b Records of Luton manor. ^c History of Hertfordshire. ^d Records of the manor.

who employed Brown to lay it out. It now contains about 1500 acres. The river Lea, which rises in the neighbouring parish of Houghton-Regis, a little beyond Leagrave, a hamlet of this parish, runs through the park, where it supplies two pieces of water, the one containing 14, the other 50 acres. A part of the house at Luton-Hoo was rebuilt by the Napiers, but some parts of it appear to be of a more ancient date. The late Earl of Bute began building a very stately mansion on the site, from a design by Mr. Adam; the east front and the south wing only were completed. The principal rooms, particularly the library, which is 146 feet in length, the drawing-room and the saloon, are on a magnificent scale. The collection of pictures is very large and valuable, chiefly of the Italian and Flemish schools. Among the portraits are, Margaret queen of Scots, with her second husband Archibald Douglas; the first Earl of Pembroke, the Earl of Strafford, General Ireton, Mr. Pym, Mrs. Lane, who assisted King Charles II. in his escape after the battle of Worcester; Lord Chancellor Jeffreys, Ben Jonson, Dr. Samuel Johnson, Dr. Armstrong, and the late Earl of Bute, by Sir Joshua Reynolds. The chapel is fitted up with very rich Gothic carving in wood, said to have been originally executed for Sir Thomas Pope at Tittenhanger in 1548, and brought to Luton by Sir Robert Napier. The late Earl of Bute formed a botanic garden at Luton, but he afterwards removed his valuable collection of plants to his seat at Christ-Church in Hampshire.

Ancient records describe several estates in this parish by the name of Manors, besides those already mentioned; as Fennel's Grove, Langley's, Bennett's, Northwood, Stapleforth, East-Hide, West-Hide, Stoppesley, Great Hampsted-Somerles, Hayes, Bailiffs, Dallowe, Leagrave, Lightgrave, or Lucy's, Biscot, &c. It is probable, that some of these originated from the divisions and sub-divisions of the manor among the heirs of Sibella countess of Derby. None of them possess at present any manerial rights. The eight first are enumerated in the conveyance from Mr. Lawley to bishop Rotherham. All traces of Bennett's and Northwood appear to be lost. A wood, called Fennel's Grove, belongs to the Marquis of Bute. Langley's and Stapleforth are two farms, which passed to the Napiers, and now belong to the Marquis of Bute; the latter now forms part of Luton park. East-Hide, a reputed manor, which pays a quit-rent to the lord of the manor of Luton, was purchased in the early part of the last century by Philadelphia, relict of Sir Thomas Cotton bart. who, not long afterwards, sold it to Mr. Floyer, Governor of Fort St. David. It was purchased of him by Dr. Bettesworth, chancellor of the diocese of London, who died in 1779, and is now the property and residence of his widow. The house was built by Lady Cotton. The manor of West-Hide, *alias* Aynell's, belongs to the Marquis of Bute: Stoppesley was anciently
in

in the Hoos; in queen Elizabeth's reign, this manor and Hayes belonged to the family of Cateby^b, and were afterwards in the Cheynes^c: Stoppesley now belongs to the Marquis of Bute. Hayes, which is a small estate within Stoppesley, is the property of Mr. Morris. Dallowe and Bailiffs or Bailies both belong to the Marquis of Bute. Bailiffs was formerly in the family of Field^d, Dallowe in the Crawleys, of whom it was purchased by the Napiers.

The manor of Lightgrave, or Leagrave, was from 1305 to 1455 in the family of Lucy^e, and is presumed to be the same, which, in the seventeenth century, being then called Lucy's, or Lewsy's, was in the family of Wingate^f. This estate lying principally in the parish of Toddington, is now the Duke of Bedford's, having been purchased in 1782, of John Miller esq. by the trustees under his grand-father's will. The manor of Biscot, or Limbury-cum-Biscot, which was also in the Wingates^g, is now the property of John Crawley esq.

The manor of Great Hampsted was, as early as the year 1309, in the baronial family of Somery^h. In 1464, it was conveyed to Lord Wenlock by the name of Great Hampsted-Somerisⁱ. This estate passed from the Rotherhams to the Crawleys. A field called Grathamsted, being the site of the reputed manor or manor-farm of Great Hampsted or Grathamsted, is still the property of John Crawley esq. whose ancestors were possessed also of another farm, now the Marquis of Bute's, called Someries, where are the remains of an ancient mansion, supposed to have been begun and left unfinished by Lord Wenlock; but they appear to be of a more recent date, and are probably the ruins of a mansion belonging to Sir John Rotherham, who certainly resided at Someries, which came to the Crawleys by the marriage of his daughter with Sir Francis Crawley, one of the Justices of the Common Pleas^k, who died in 1649. John Crawley, grandfather of Sir Francis, was of Nether-Crawley in the parish of Luton. His descendant, John Crawley esq., has a seat called Stockwood in this parish.

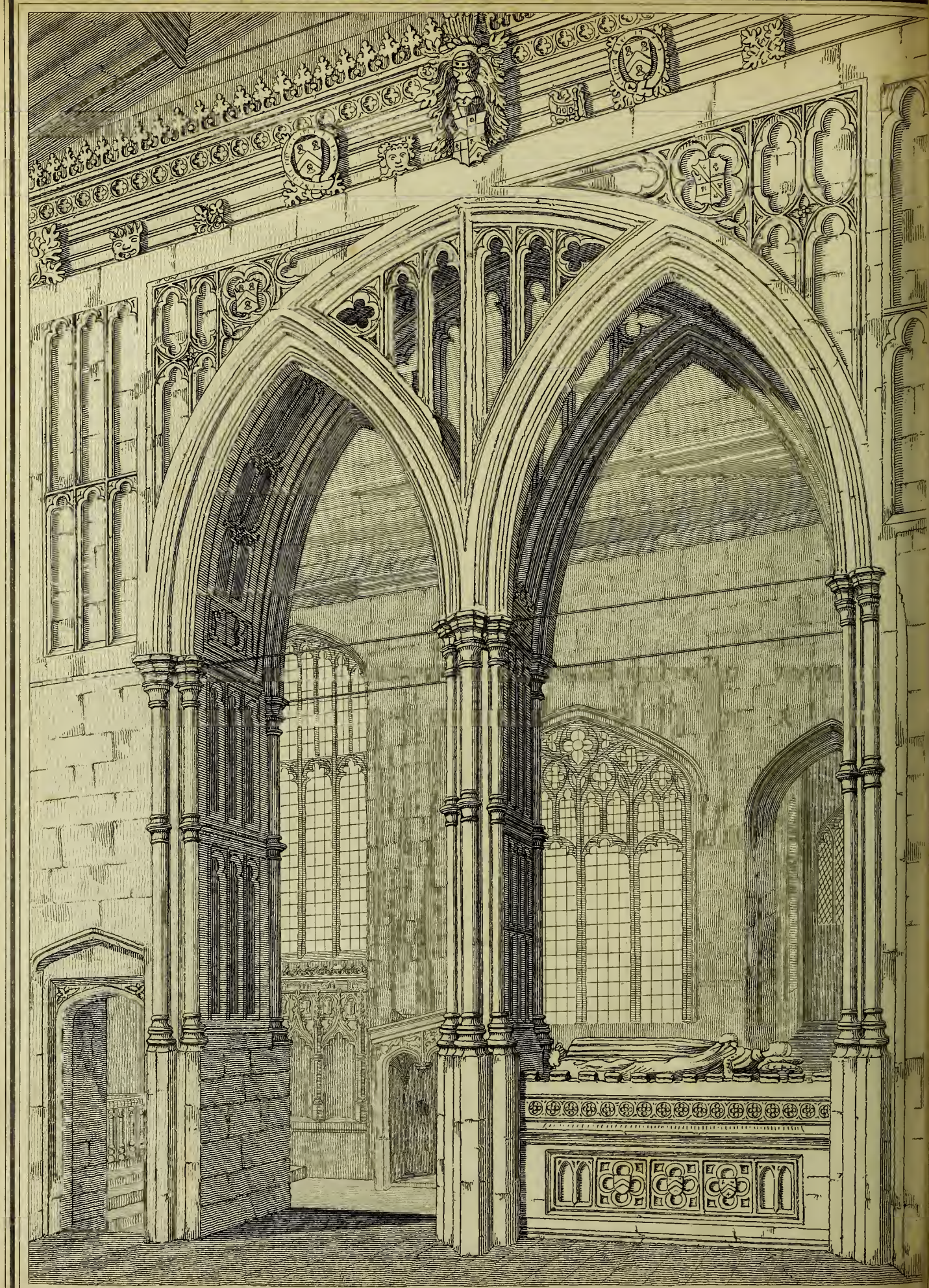
Besides those already mentioned, the Marquis of Bute has two other inferior manors in this parish, called Brach and Farley. Brach belonged to the Rotherams and Napiers, and was purchased by the late Earl of Bute, with the Luton estate, of Mr. Herne. Farley was part of the possessions of the abbot and convent of St. Alban's; it was afterwards the seat of a branch of the Rotherams. King James, on his progress in 1605, spent a night at Sir John Rotherham's near Luton^l.

At Farley or Farleigh, which is about two miles from Luton, was an ancient hospital given by King Henry II. to the great foreign hospital of Santingfield in Picardy,

^b Esch. Eliz. ^c Esch. Car. 1. ^d Esch. Eliz. ^e Esch. Edw. I—Edw. IV.

^f Esch. Car. 1. ^g Ibid. ^h Esch. 2 Edw. II. ⁱ Cl. 3 Edw. IV.

^k Bedfordshire Pedigrees in the British Museum. ^l Leland's Collectanea, vol. i. p. 626.



to which the master and brethren of Farleigh were made subordinate^m. William Wenlock, prebendary of Brownswood, was made master of this hospital in 1379ⁿ. Having been seized by King Henry VI. as belonging to an alien house, it was given by him to the Provost and Scholars of King's College in Cambridge^o. The master of Farley hospital appears to have had a manor in Farley^p. It is probable, that it was the same which belongs to the Marquis of Bute, and that the Provost and Scholars of King's College, who have not at present any estate in Luton, conveyed it to the abbot and convent of St. Alban's, in exchange for other lands.

The parish church of Luton is a handsome Gothic structure: the tower is composed of flint and other stones in chequer-work. The chancel was built by John Whethamsted, abbot of St. Alban's, in the 15th century. On the south side are four stone seats richly ornamented; in the spandrils are the arms of Edward the Confessor, the kingdom of Mercia, the abbey of St. Alban's, king Offa, abbot Whethamsted, &c. Above is the abbot's motto *Valles abundabunt*. There is a chapel on the north side of the chancel, separated from it by two lofty and elegant Gothic arches. The following inscription, preserved in an heraldic manuscript in the British Museum^q, shews that it was built by Sir John Wenlock, before the year 1461; for, in that year, he was created baron Wenlock.

“ Jesu Christ most of myght,
Have mercy on John Le Wenlock Knight,
And on his wife Elizabeth,
Who out of this world is past by death,
Which founded this chapel here,
Help them with your hearty prayer,
That they may come to that place,
Where ever is joy and solace.”

This inscription, and the portrait of Lord Wenlock, which was formerly in the east window^r, have been destroyed or removed. The arms of Wenlock still remain quartered with Hoo, and surrounded by the garter. The same arms are over the screen which divides the chapel from the chancel, impaling those of Lady Wenlock, who was daughter and co-heir of Sir John Drayton. Under one of the arches is an altar-tomb, on which is the effigies of an ecclesiastic in his robes, supposed to be that of William Wenlock, prebendary of Brownswood in the cathedral church of St. Paul, and master of the hospital of Farleigh, who died in 1392, and directed his body to be buried at Luton. The inscriptions on the tomb appear to confirm

^m Tanner. ⁿ History of Luton, p. 36. ^o Pat. 26 Hen. VI. Pt. 1.

^p Pope Nicholas's Taxation. ^q Harl. MSS. No. 1531.

^r History of Luton, p. 17.

the conjecture ; but the arms, which are several times repeated, (Arg. a chevron between three crosses croflets G.) are not those of Wenlock. It is possible that they might have been borne by the hospital of Farleigh, or that of Santingfield, to which it was subordinate. The tomb, if it be that of William De Wenlock above mentioned, must have existed before the arch was built, and was probably removed to its present situation by Lord Wenlock (who appears to have been great-nephew of the prebendary), when he founded the chapel. The following inscriptions have been frequently, but very erroneously, printed ; they are imperfect, but what remains is very legible.

On the north side :—

“ In Wenlok brad I
In this toun Lordschipes had I
Her am I now fady
Christes moder help me Lady
Under thes stones
For a tym schal I reste my bones
Dey mot I ned ones
Myghtful God grant me thy wones.”

On the south side :—

“ —illelmus sic tumulatus
De Wenlok natus,
In ordine presbiteratus,
Alter hujus ville
Dominus meus fuit ille
Hic licet indignus
Anime Deus esto benignus.”

It is probable that Elizabeth Lady Wenlock was buried in this chapel, and that Lord Wenlock intended it for his own place of sepulture ; but losing his life in the battle of Tewkesbury, he was buried in the conventual church at that place, where an altar-tomb in the north wall of the nave has been ascribed to him ; though, as the arms on the surcoat of the recumbent figure are not those of Wenlock, it is more probable that it was intended for some other person. Le Neve has doubted the fact of Lord Wenlock's being slain at Tewkesbury, from the circumstance of his having found the will of John Wenlock, bearing date 1477, subsequent to that battle*. It certainly, however, was not the will of Lord Wenlock, for King Edward IV. in 1475 granted certain houses in London, which had escheated to the crown by the death of John Lord Wenlock without issue, to the bishop of Lincoln†. There is no reason, therefore, for doubting the accuracy of our historians on this point.

* See History of Luton, p. 46.

† Pat. 15 Edw. IV.

In the Wenlock chapel are several altar-tombs, stripped of their brasses. It appears by some ancient heraldic notes in the British Museum^u, that they are the tombs of the Rotherams of Someries. One of them was that of Sir Thomas Rotheram, nephew of the archbishop of York, who married Katharine, only child of Anthony Lord Grey of Ruthin, son of Edmund Earl of Kent. This Anthony Lord Grey, who is erroneously supposed to have died without issue, lies buried in the same chapel, where also were deposited the remains of Sir Francis Crawley, one of the Justices of the Common Pleas, who, having incurred the displeasure of Parliament for favouring the claims of King Charles I. in the business of the ship-money, was removed from his situation. He died in 1649. His son Francis Crawley, one of the Barons of the Exchequer, who died in 1682, is buried also in this chapel.

In the north aisle were the monuments of the Rotherams of Farleigh^w. John Rotheram of this family was Baron of the Exchequer in 1652^x. In the north aisle was also the tomb of John Hay, steward to the archbishop of Canterbury, who repaired the church of Luton at his own charge, and died in 1454^y.

At the west end of the south aisle is the mutilated figure of an ecclesiastic, holding a cross. In the same aisle is the tomb of John Bettessworth, LL. D. chancellor of the diocese of London, who died in 1779. In the north transept is the tomb of John Ackworth esq. who died in 1513. The following motley inscription, excepting the three first words, which have been removed, remains on a brass plate round the verge :

[“ *O man, whose'er*] thou be ! timor mortis shoulde trowble thee ; for when thou leest wenyft, veniet te mors superare, and so grave grevys, ergo mortis memoreris. Jesu Mercy, Lady help.”

At the west end of the nave is an elegant Gothic baptistery, of an octagonal form. (See p. 31.)

William, the king's chamberlain, had the church of Luton at the time of the Norman survey. It was afterwards annexed to the manor, when in the possession of Robert Earl of Gloucester. Robert, abbot of St. Alban's, procured it for his convent of Robert Waudari, to whom King Stephen had given Luton upon the Earl of Gloucester's rebellion. King Henry II. afterwards seized on this church as part of the royal demesne, but, by the intercession of the abbot, restored it to the convent ; and the tithes were then appropriated to defray the expence of entertaining strangers^z. The Marquis of Bute has now two thirds of the impropriation. The great tithes of Stoppesley, which were granted by Queen Mary to Sir Thomas

^u Harl. MSS. 1531.

^w Hist. of Luton.

^x Ant. Wood.

^y Hist. of Luton.

^z Lives of the Abbots of St. Alban's, annexed to Mat. Paris, p. 1017.

Pope, and by him given to Trinity College in Oxford, are held by his Lordship as lessee under that college: the remainder belongs to Mr. Crawley. The Marquis is patron of the vicarage.

Thomas Pomfret, father of the poet, was first curate, and then vicar, of Luton. Dr. Johnson says that John Pomfret, the poet, died in 1703, in the 36th year of his age. Thomas, son of Mr. Thomas Pomfret and Mrs. Catharine his wife, was baptized at Luton, March 12, 1667, as appears by the parish register. It is remarkable, that this entry agrees with the poet's age; and that, among a numerous family, all of whom were baptized at Luton, the name of John does not occur.

There was a fraternity in the church of Luton, dedicated to the Holy Trinity; a register-book of which, containing the accounts of the brotherhood from the year 1528 to 1547, with many curious particulars relating to their anniversaries, feasts, &c. is in the possession of the Marquis of Bute.

MARSTON-MORTEYNE, in the hundred of Redbornstoke, and deanery of Flitt, lies about seven miles south-west of Bedford, and about four from Amptill. It had formerly a market on Tuesdays, and a fair at Lady-Day, granted to John De Morteyne^b, who was several times knight of the shire. The Morteynes held this manor many years under the barony of Cainhoe. It was afterwards successively in the families of Reynes, Dicons^c, and Snagg^d. The last heir male of the Snaggs served the office of sheriff in 1705. It is presumed, that the manor was purchased of his representatives by the Dukes of Marlborough, and by her bequeathed, with the rest of her Bedfordshire estates, to her grandson, the Hon. John Spencer. It is now the property of Earl Spencer.

The manor of Nether Shelton in this parish, which had belonged to the priory of Caldwell, was formerly in the Cheyne family^e. It is now the property of John Foster esq.

The parish church is a handsome Gothic building: the tower, which is square, and massive, stands detached from it. In the chancel is an altar-tomb, with the effigies, on a brass plate, of Thomas Reynes esq. lord of the manor, who died in 1451, and his wife Alice. There are several monuments of the family of Snagg. The advowson of the rectory is vested in the master and scholars of St. John's College in Cambridge. The parish has been inclosed by an act of Parliament passed in 1796, but the lands were not exonerated from tithes.

Wroxill, a hamlet in this parish, had formerly a chapel of ease, dedicated to St. Leonard the Martyr: it was endowed with glebe, and the tithes of the hamlet^f.

^b Cart. 17 Edw. II. ^c Thomas Dicons, who inherited by marriage with the heiress of Reynes, died in 1549. Esch. ^d Esch. Car. I. ^e Esch. Eliz. ^f Chantry Roll in the Augmentation Office.

There are now no traces of the building. The manor of Wroxill, in the fifteenth century, was in the family of Saunderfon^g, afterwards in the Catesbys^h; it is now the property of Mr. James Bayly.

The manor of Hoe, which was parcel of the barony of Trally, described in ancient records as in this parish, is now considered to be in the adjoining parish of Wotton.

MAULDEN, in the hundred of Redbornstoke, and deanery of Flitt, lies about a mile and a half from Ampthill. The manor belonged to the priory of Elstow, and afterwards to the Carys. King James, in 1617, granted it, on failure of male issue from Henry Cary, Lord Hunsdon, to Sir John Botelerⁱ. After several conveyances, it became the property of Sir Thomas Dacres, who in 1635 sold it to the Earl of Elgin, of Houghton Park, in the adjoining parish. It is now the property of the Duke of Bedford, whose grandfather purchased it of the Earl of Aylesbury, in 1738.

In the church are some memorials of the ancient family of Faldo, who were settled here before the reign of Edward III^k. They are now extinct. Adjoining the church is a mausoleum, of an octagonal form, erected in 1656 by Thomas Earl of Elgin, in memory of his second wife Diana, daughter of Lord Burleigh, and relict of John Earl of Oxford. In the centre is a figure, in white marble, of the Countess in her shroud rising out of an oval sarcophagus. Mr. Pennant, in his *Journey from Chester*, says the common people called it the Lady in the punch-bowl. The mausoleum is surrounded by niches, supposed to have been intended for the statues of her descendants. One only is occupied, containing that of her husband, who died in 1663. On the floor is a bust of her grandson Edward Bruce esq. eldest son of Robert Lord Bruce. Underneath the mausoleum is a columbarium, the burial-place of the Earl of Aylesbury's family. The earl is patron of the rectory. An act for inclosing the parish passed in 1796, when an allotment of land was given to the rector in lieu of tithes, and an allotment assigned to the poor in lieu of their right to peat from Maulden Moor. John Pomfret, the poet, was rector of Maulden.

MELCHBORN, in the hundred of Stodden, and deanery of Eaton, lies near the borders of Northamptonshire, about 12 miles north of Bedford. It had formerly a market on Fridays, and a fair at the festival of St. Mary Magdalen, granted in 1264 to the knights-hospitallers^l, to whom Adeliza de Clermont, wife of Gil-

^g Cl. 38 Hen. VI. ^h Esch. Eliz. ⁱ Duke of Bedford's Records. ^k Bedfordshire Pedigrees in the British Museum.

^l Cart. 49 Hen. III.

bert de Tonbridge, Earl of Clare, gave the preceptory of Melchborn; her grandson, Roger, Earl of Clare, gave them the manor and church^m.

Leland, who was at Melchborn in 1538, speaks of the preceptory as "a right fair place of square stone standing much upon pillerd vaultes of stone, with goodly gardeins, orchards, and ponds, and a parke thereby". The preceptory he calls an ancient structure, but says that the hall was built by Sir William Weston, the last prior of the knights-hospitallers. The preceptory, which was valued at 24*l.* 9*s.* 10½*d.* *per annum*, was granted to the hospitallers on the re-establishment of their order by Queen Mary, in 1558, and upon their second suppression, was given by Queen Elizabeth, to the first Earl of Bedford^o. It has been many years in the noble family of St. John, and since they have forsaken Bletfoe, has been their chief residence. The house appears to have been built about the reign of King James or Charles I.: the front has been modernised. In the drawing room are portraits of Margaret, countess of Richmond, and the first Lord St. John, of Bletfoe. The present Lord St. John has improved the gardens, and has built several hot-houses and conservatories for the culture of exotics.

The parish church was modernized and neatly fitted up by the late Mr. Whitbread, Lady St. John's father. A brass plate is preserved in memory of Robert Pavely esq. who died in 1377. The St. Johns inherited considerable property in Bedfordshire by a marriage with the heiress of this family. An organ was put up at Melchborn in 1800, by Lord St. John, who maintains an organist at his own expence. The great tithes, which were appropriated to the knights-hospitallers, are now vested in Lord St. John, who is patron of the vicarage.

MEPPERSHALL, or MEP SHALL, in the hundred of Clifton, lies about two miles south of Shefford. The manor was, at an early period, in the family of Meppershall, who held it by the service of attending the king in his wars with a horse of no fixed price, a coat of mail, a sword, lance, iron head-piece, and a little knife^p. They continued in possession as late as the year 1453^q; soon after which, their estates passed by marriage to the Botelers^r. The manor of Meppershall now belongs to the daughters of the late Thomas Poynter esq. to whose family it passed by purchase, from the Fleetwoods, about the year 1768. A moated site near the church-yard was, it is probable, the seat of the Meppershalls.

The manor of Polehanger, in this parish, which belonged to the priory of Chicksand, is now the property of Sir George Osborn bart.

^m Dugdale. ⁿ Leland's Itin. ^o Tanner. ^p Blount's Tenures. ^q Esch. Edw. II.—Henry VI.
^r See Esch. 31 and 39 Henry VI.

The monastery of Warden had an estate in this parish called Woodhull Grange. Soon after the Reformation it was in the noble family of Grey, and is now, by inheritance, the property of Lady Lucas.

In the parish church are tombs of the Mepperhalls and Botelers, with their effigies in brass. The advowson of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Shefford, is vested in the master and scholars of St. John's College, Cambridge. The circumstance of this parish being situated in two counties, is noticed in the survey of Domesday; a part of it is in an insulated portion of Hertfordshire. The dining parlour of the old parsonage house, which stood within a moated site, and has lately been removed, was on the boundary of the two counties. The beam had the following inscription, alluding to this circumstance :

“ If you wish to go into Hertfordshire,
Hitch a little nearer the fire.”

The present parsonage-house stands also in the two counties. The church is in Bedfordshire.

Near this place, in Hertfordshire, is an ancient chapel dedicated to St. Thomas, of which a farther account will be given in the description of that county.

MILBROOK, in the hundred of Redbornstoke and deanery of Flitt, is a small village, scarcely a mile from Ampthill. At this place was a cell of Benedictine monks, belonging to the abbey of St. Alban's, which was removed about the year 1119, by Geoffrey, the 16th abbot of that monastery, to Moddry, otherwise Beaulieu, in Hertfordshire^s, the prior of which place had a grant of free warren in Milbrook, in 1294^t. The manor having belonged successively to the St. Amands and Beauchamps, was purchased of the latter by Sir John Cornwall, who, in 1442, was created Baron of Milbrook. Not long after the death of this brave officer, who was better known by his other title of Lord Fanhope, Milbrook became vested in the crown, and was annexed to the honour of Ampthill. The lease of the manor is now vested in the Earl of Upper-Osford, in consequence of an exchange with the late Duke of Bedford, who was lessee of the honor of Ampthill.

The parish church stands on a hill which overhangs the village. From the church-yard is an extensive prospect over the vale of Bedford. In the church windows are the arms of Lord Fanhope, with the garter. In the chancel is a tablet to the memory of Dr. George Lawson, rector, who died in 1684. He was employed by his patron, Robert, earl of Aylesbury, in several confidential messages relating

^s Lives of the Abbots of St. Alban's annexed to Mat. Paris 1008. ^t Cart. 22 Edw. I.

to the Restoration. The parish has been inclosed by an Act of Parliament passed in 1795, when a small allotment of land was given to the rector, who was farther compensated by a corn rent, charged on lands allotted to the Earl of Offory, who is patron of the rectory. The rector had an allotment also in lieu of fern, on Milbrook warren, and there was an allotment to the poor for fuel.

MILTON-BRYANT, more properly MILTON-BRYEN, in the hundred of Manhead, and deanery of Dunstable, lies about two miles from Woburn, a little to the north of the London road. The family of Bryen, and the abbot of Woburn had anciently manors in this parish^u. Since the Reformation the manor of Milton-Bryant has been successively in the families of Stanton^w and Johnson. It is now the property and seat of Sir Hugh Inglis, whose first wife was the daughter and sole heiress of the late Henry Johnson esq. Sir Hugh was created a baronet in 1801. Robert Fitz-Bryen, gave the advowson of the rectory to Merton abbey, in the reign of Henry II^x. It is now in the crown. The parish has been inclosed by an Act of Parliament passed in 1793, when an allotment of land was assigned to the rector in lieu of his glebe, and a corn rent, in lieu of tithes.

MILTON-ERNEST, in the hundred of Stodden and deanery of Clopham, lies about five miles from Bedford, on the road to Higham-Ferrers. It took its name from the family of Erneys, Harneys, or Ernest, (for they are thus variously described in records,) who possessed the manor from the year 1316^y, or earlier, till 1542, when it passed to the family of Turnor, of Haverill in Suffolk, by marriage with the heiress of Sir Walter Ernest^z. Sir Christopher Turnor, baron of the Exchequer, was of this family, possessed the estate, resided at Milton, and lies buried in the parish church. His sons sold the manor to Sir Thomas Rolt of Sacomb, of whose widow it was re-purchased, about the year 1700, by Sir Edmund Turnor, younger brother of the judge, and his grandson John. In 1719, Edmund Turnor esq. of Stoke-Rochford, sold it to Sir George Byng, afterwards Viscount Torrington, who had married Margaret Master, a grand-daughter of Sir Christopher Turnor. It was afterwards the property of Mrs. Stukely, sister of Margaret, Lady Torrington, who bequeathed it to Withers Bramston esq. of Hall-Place, near Basingstoke. In 1799, Mr. Bramston sold it to Mr. Robert Gibbins, the present proprietor.

The manor of Bassets, in this parish, was for a considerable time in the family of

^u Nomina Villarum, in the British Museum. N° 6281, Harl. MSS.

^x Manning's History of Surrey, I. 251.

^y Nomina Villarum.

^w Esch. Car. I.

^z From the information of

Rolt, of Milton, a branch of the Rólts of Sacomb. It is now the property of Mrs. Boyden. There is a third manor called Babbs, which is now in severalties, between T. Fisher esq. Mr. Ellis Shipley, and Mr. Samuel Wyatt.

In the parish church are monuments of the families of Turnor and Rolt. The great tithes of this parish were appropriated to the abbey of St. Alban's. In the reign of Charles I. the rectory belonged to the family of Franklyn. Sir Edmund Turnor, who, it is probable, purchased of the Franklyns, in the year 1693 munificently endowed the vicarage with the great tithes, then let at 100*l.* *per annum*, and a parsonage house. His descendant, Edmund Turnor esq. of Panton, in Lincolnshire, is the present patron. Among many other acts of charity for which Sir Edmund Turnor stands recorded as a public benefactor, is the foundation of an almshouse at this place in the year 1695, for six poor persons, which he endowed with lands in Milton, Clapham, and Oakley, now let at 34*l.* *per annum*. An act of Parliament passed for inclosing the parish in 1803, when an allotment of land was assigned to the vicar in lieu of the great and small tithes.

NORTHILL, in the hundred of Wixamtree, and deanery of Shefford, about eight miles nearly east of Bedford, was called in ancient records North-Yewel. It was parcel of the barony of Trally, or Traylly. Sir John Traylly, the last heir-male of that family (who were not summoned to Parliament as barons later than the reign of King John²), died seised of it in 1350^a. It is now the property of John Harvey esq. of Ickwell-bury who purchased it, in 1802, of John Robinson esq. of Denston-Hall, in the county of Suffolk. An ancestor of Mr. Robinson's, nearly a century ago, married an heiress of the Bromfall family, who were for a considerable time proprietors of this manor. Owen Thomas Bromfall esq. who is supposed to have been the last heir-male of the family, was buried at Northill in 1731.

The manors of Thorncote, Hatch, Brookend, and Budna, which belonged for many years to the Bromfalls, were purchased of Mr. Thomas Smith, of Gray's-Inn, by the present proprietor, Godfrey Thornton esq. of Moggerhanger.

The manors of Upper and Lower Caldecot, and the manor of Ickwell, have been, for more than a century, in the family of the present proprietor, John Harvey esq. who has a seat in this parish called Ickwell-bury. Mr. Harvey has two other estates, called the manors of Hartsholm and Blundells, in the two Caldecots. Mr. Fyshe Palmer has a seat at Ickwell, which he inherits from the Fyshes. Humphrey Fyshe esq. of Ickwell, was sheriff of the county in 1684. Another manor of Caldecot, in Northill, having been previously in the families of Fyshe, Moore, Ratchford, and Vaughan, was conveyed in 1714, to Mrs. Stukely,

^a Dugdale.

² Esch. 34 Edw. III.

whose nephew, the Hon. John Byng, sold it to Mr. Thomas Smith of Gray's Inn.

The parish church, a large and handsome Gothic structure, is supposed to have been built in the beginning of Henry IV.'s reign; at which time it was made collegiate by Sir Gerard Braybroke, one of Sir John Traylly's executors. In the roof of the porch, which is of stone, are the arms of Traylly, a cross flory between four martlets. Northill college was founded in the year 1405, for a warden or master, and a discretionary number of fellows, chaplains, or ministers, who were to pray for the souls of Sir John Traylly and Reginald his son, both then deceased^b. The lands belonging to this college, valued at 61l. 5s. 3d. *per annum*, were granted, in 1548, to William Fitzwilliam^c.

In the chancel of Northill church are monuments of the Harveys of Ickwell-bury; and the following epitaph for Capel Berrow, a theological writer of some note, author of a treatise "On the Lapse of human Souls," who was forty years curate of the parish: "Quicquid fuit mortale Revⁱ. Capel Berrow, A. M. Hon^{imi}. Gul. Comit^{is} Cowper à sacris, sub hoc marmore conditur; immortale vero ut pium est credere, cœlum conscendit beatorum ordinibus ascribendum. Quippe si quem virtus egregia, singularis humanitas, cultusque numinis fervidus ac frequens, meritò commendant, hunc integerrima plane vita, facile ingenium ac liberale ut animus uni sceleri infensus, laudibus abunde cumularunt. Hujus paroch. 40 circiter annos pastor miro quodam impetu verborum et delectu munus divinum illustravit; et quid verum atque decens non dixisse solum visus est orator sed inspirantem sui cordis tabulam, etiam et transcripsisse. Patri quidem optime promerito, 5 Cal. Nov. 1751, vita defuncto æt. anno 70, hoc pietatis et affectus monumentum filii lugentes posuere." The east window of the chancel is fitted up with stained glass, by J. Oliver, consisting of the royal arms, those of the grocers' company, and of several of their masters and wardens; and the arms of Margaret Lady Slayny, with whose money, given in trust to the grocers' company for charitable purposes, the impropriate rectory and advowson of Northill, formerly belonging to the collegiate church, were purchased in 1664. The grocers' company present to the benefice, now called a rectory, having since that time been endowed with such of the great and small tithes as were included in the purchase, viz. the great tithes of Beeston, Thorncot, Hatch, Budna, and Brookend, with some few exceptions, and the whole of the small tithes, excepting those of the college farm, and a few other lands. Mr. Harvey of Ickwell-bury has the great tithes of Northill, Ickwell, and the two Caldecots, with some few exceptions. Allotments of land were made to the several proprietors of tithes under an inclosure act, which passed in the year

^b Pat. 6 Hen. IV.

^c Tanner.

1780. Some further allotments for tithes appear to have been made to the incumbent of Northill, under an act which passed in 1796 for the inclosing of this parish and Blunham.

OAKLEY, in the hundred of Stodden and deanery of Clopham, lies on the banks of the Ouse, about four miles north-west of Bedford. The manor was, at an early period, in the baronial family of Argentine^a; it was afterwards held by the family of Reynes under the Lords Roos^b, and acquired the name of Oakley Reynes. It became vested in the crown, on the attainder of Lord Vaux in 1464^c. A younger son of the first Lord Mordaunt settled at Oakley in the sixteenth century: it is probable that he acquired the manor either by grant or purchase. His descendants were certainly possessed of it in 1679; in which year it was alienated to Sir Cresswell Levinz, one of the Justices of the Common Pleas^d. It is now the property of the Duke of Bedford, whose grandfather purchased it of the Levinz family in 1737. The Duke has a villa at Oakley, pleasantly situated on the banks of the Ouse, which was his country-seat before he succeeded to the title.

The parish church appears to have been built by one of the family of Reynes, who lies buried under an Ogie arch in the south wall, where is his effigy in robes, on an altar-tomb, with his arms, and two other coats. The great tithes, which were appropriated to the priory of Caldwell, are now vested in the provost and fellows of Eton College, who are patrons of the vicarage. The Duke of Bedford is lessee under the College. An Act of Parliament passed for inclosing this parish in 1803, when allotments of land in lieu of tithes were assigned to the impropiators, and to the vicar.

ODELL, in the hundred of Willey and deanery of Clopham, lies upon the banks of the Ouse, one mile from Harold, and about ten miles north-west of Bedford, on the borders of Northamptonshire. In 1222 William Fitzwarren had a grant of a market at this place on Thursdays^e. The next year a prohibition was issued, commanding that the market should not be held, if it proved detrimental to the neighbouring market of Olney in Buckinghamshire^f. It is most probable there was then no market at Harold. The market at Odell was confirmed in 1242^g, but has long been disused. A fair is held annually on the Thursday and Friday in Whitfun-week.

Odell, anciently called Wahul or Wodhull, was the seat of an ancient barony, belonging, at the time of the Norman survey, to Walter Flandrensis, whose poste-

^a Cart. Edw. II. ^b Esch. 17 Edw. III. ^c Esch. 4 Edw. IV. ^d Duke of Bedford's Records. ^e Cart. 6 Hen. III. ^f Cart. 7 Hen. III. ^g Cart. 26 Hen. III.

rity were called De Wahul^b. Several manors in Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire, and Buckinghamshire, were parcels of the barony. The family of Wahul were not summoned to parliament after the reign of Edward I. but they continued in the male line, and called themselves the Lords Wahul till the reign of Henry VIII. when the heir female of Anthony, titular Lord Wahul, married Richard Chetwode, a younger son of Roger Chetwode esq. of Oakley in Staffordshireⁱ. Sir Richard Chetwode, in the reign of James the First, being possessed of the manor of Odell, made an unsuccessful attempt to obtain the title of Lord Wahul, by petition to the House of Lords. His descendant, Knightly Chetwode, renewed the claim about the middle of the last century, but with no better success^k. The manor of Great Wodhull or Odell had been long before sold by the Chetwodes to the Alstons^l. Sir Thomas Alston of Odell was created a baronet in 1642. The present baronet, Sir John Alston, resides in Cambridgehire. Odell is the seat and property of Thomas Alston esq.

Leland, who visited Bedfordshire in the reign of Henry VIII. describes Odell Castle as “strange ruins belonging to the Lord Bray.” It seems difficult to reconcile this with its descent from the Lords Wahul to the Chetwodes, which is proved by various records. Odell Castle stands on an eminence, and commands a beautiful view of the river Ouse, and the adjacent country: very little remains of the old building; the present house is chiefly modern. The south front was built by Lady Wolstenholme, relict of Sir Rowland Alston, who died in 1698.

The manor of Little Odell was, at the time of the Norman survey, part of the estate of Eustace Earl of Boloigne; and continued, for a considerable time, to be part of the honor of Boloigne, but was afterwards annexed to the barony of Wahul^m.

The parish church is a handsome Gothic building, and has several monuments of the family of Alston. The chantry-roll for Bedfordshireⁿ mentions, that there was an endowment, before the Reformation, for the maintenance of a lamp in this church, and for a *drinking*, that is, a church ale. Mr. Alston is patron of the rectory. In 1556 Sir Oswald Butler, rector of Odell, did penance in the parish church, by order of Cardinal Pole, for living with his wife^o. The parish of Odell has been inclosed under an Act of Parliament which passed in 1776, when an allotment of land was assigned to the rector in lieu of tithes.

PAVENHAM, or PAVINGHAM, in the hundred of Willey and deanery of Clopham, lies about six miles north-west of Bedford. The manor was anciently in the

^b See Cooper's History of Odell, in Bibl. Top. Brit.

ⁱ Ibid.

^k Ibid.

^l Ibid.

^m Ibid.

ⁿ In the Augmentation Office. ^o History of Odell.

Pabenhams[†], from whom it passed, by an heir female, to the Tyringhams[‡]. It has since been, for a considerable time, in the Alston family, and is now the property of Thomas Alston esq. The Master and Scholars of Trinity College in Cambridge have a manor, and the impropriate rectory of this parish, and are patrons of the vicarage, which is united to Felmersham. In the church are tombs of the families of Alston and Franklyn. The parish has been inclosed by an Act of Parliament, in 1769, when allotments of land in lieu of tithes were assigned to the impropiators, and to the vicar. Stafford bridge over the Ouse, with a causey of thirty-five arches, passable for carriages, but without a fence, is in this parish.

PERTENHALL, in the hundred of Stodden and deanery of Eaton, lies on the borders of Huntingdonshire, about three miles from Kimbolton. The manor was anciently in the Peyvres[†] and Dayrells; from the latter it passed by purchase to the Mowbrays[‡]. Sir William Compton, being seised of it in 1518, sold it to Bishop Fox, the founder of Corpus Christi College in Oxford, by whom it was given to that Society.

The knights templars had the advowson of the church, and an estate still called Knights Templars, where is the site of a moated mansion. Sir Edward Montague, Chief Justice of the King's Bench, had an estate in Pertenhall, parcel of the manor of Hoo, and held under that of Kimbolton[†]. The manors of Pertenhall-How, and Bell's *alias* Conington's-fee, were sold by Simon Taylor esq. in 1790, to the Rev. Mr. Pagett, and are now the property of William Pagett esq. John Sismey esq. has another manor in Pertenhall, which he inherited from the family of Deane.

In the parish church is the monument of a crusader, with his effigies in stone; and in the chancel that of Dr. John King, rector of Chelsea, author of several tracts and sermons, who died in 1732. His descendant, the Rev. John King, is now patron of the rectory of Pertenhall. The parish has been inclosed by an Act of Parliament, passed in 1796, when an allotment of land was given to the rector in lieu of tithes.

POTESGRAVE, in the hundred of Manshead and deanery of Dunstable, lies about two miles and a half from Woburn, between the two great roads. The manor belonged to the monastery of Woburn; and having been granted by king Edward VI. to Lord Clinton and Say, was soon afterwards conveyed to the family of Saunders; and, having since passed by the same title as Battlesden, was, together

[†] Esch. Hen. III. &c.

[‡] Esch. Rich. II.

[†] Cart. Hen. III.

[‡] Cl. 12 Edw. IV.

[†] Cole's Escheats in the British Museum.

with the advowson of the rectory, the property of the late Sir Gregory Page Turner bart. who died since the account of that parish was printed, and is succeeded in title and estate by his son Gregory Osborne, a minor. The manor of Lovelsbury in Potesgrave belonged to the family of Morton in the fourteenth century^u. It has since been united to the manor of Potesgrave. A third manor, which was in the family of Lucy from the reign of Edward I. to that of Edward IV.^w and afterwards in the family of Fitzjeffrey, is supposed also to have been united to Potesgrave. In the church are some tombs of the Saunders family.

POTTON, in the hundred of Biggleswade and deanery of Shefford, is a considerable market-town on the borders of Cambridgeshire, forty-eight miles from London. The market, which, though not so great as formerly, is still well supplied with all sorts of grain, particularly wheat and barley, is held on Saturday. The date of the charter has not been found on record. A fair on the festival of St. James was granted, in 1227, to Henry de Braybroke, one of the Justices of the King's Bench^x, who is supposed to have been then possessed of the manor. There are now four fairs, Feb. 2, Old Lady-day, Old Midsummer-day, and Oct. 26. A great fire happened at Potton in the year 1783, when more than fifty dwelling-houses were destroyed, besides out-houses, &c. The damage was computed at upwards of 25,000l. Above 6000l. were collected for the poorest of the sufferers. Since this accident the market is said to have declined. The number of houses, according to the returns made to Parliament in 1801, pursuant to the Population Act, was 239; that of inhabitants 1103.

The manor of Potton was in the Nevills from the reign of Edward II. to the year 1431^y, and afterwards, for many generations, in the Burgoynes of Sutton. It has since been in the Torrington family, and is now the property of Samuel Whitbread esq. M. P. whose father purchased it in 1795. The De la Poles had a manor in Potton in the fourteenth century^z, which, in the reign of Henry VIII. was in the family of Tanfield^a, being then called the manor of Potton-Mynchmaured. It has long been united to the other manor^b.

The great tithes of Potton were appropriated to the priory of the Minories in London, in the year 1394. They now belong to the parish of Thacksted in Essex, having been purchased, under a decree in Chancery, with a sum of money bequeathed to that parish by William Lord Maynard in 1698, for charitable uses^c. The vicarage of Potton is in the gift of the crown. When the parish was inclosed, under an

^u Tomb in Woburn church.

^w Escheats.

^x Cart. 11 Hen. III.

^y Esch.

^z Cl. 36 Edw. III.

^a Escheats.

^b The act for inclosing the parish of Potton, in 1774, speaks also of the manors of Potton-Rectoria and Potton-Burdett, as being then the property of Lord Torrington,

^c Morant's Essex.

Act of Parliament, which passed in 1774, an allotment of land was assigned in lieu of the vicarial tithes.

PUDINGTON, or PODINGTON, in the hundred of Willey and deanery of Clopham, lies on the borders of Northamptonshire, thirteen miles north-west of Bedford, and about five miles from Higham Ferrers. King Henry III. in 1227, granted the manor of Pudington to Ifolda de Dover, till such time as he should think fit to restore it to the heirs of Reginald Damartin, Earl of Boloigne, whose property it had formerly been; in which case he promised to grant her an equivalent^d. The manor was afterwards successively in the Greys of Ruthin, and in the Bromfletes^e. In the reign of Henry VIII. being vested in the crown, it was annexed to the honor of Ampthill. In 1557 it was granted to George Bredyman^f. In King James's reign it was in the family of Payne, from whom it passed by an heir female to that of Child. Margaret, daughter and heir of Richard Child, who died in 1647, married George Orlebar, ancestor of Richard Orlebar esq. the present proprietor^g, who has a seat in the parish, called Hinwick-House, built about the year 1710. The site of the ancient manor-house, which appears to have been a castellated mansion^h, is occupied by a farm.

Hinwick-Hall, a short distance from Mr. Orlebar's, anciently the property of the Pabenhams and Tyinghamsⁱ, was the seat of General Livefay, who died in 1717, and lies buried in Pudington church, where there is a monument to his memory. He was a descendant of Sir Michael Livefay, the regicide, of whom there was a few years ago a portrait at Hinwick-Hall. This mansion is now in the occupation of Mr. Wagstaff, descended in the female line from General Livefay's brother. The estate is divided among several co-heirs, of whom the present occupier is one.

In Pudington church are monuments of the families of Payne, Child, and Orlebar. The great tithes, which were appropriated to the prior and convent of Canons-Ashby in Northamptonshire, and the advowson of the vicarage, have of late years passed with the manor. In the library at Hinwick-House is a *Cartulary* of the priory of Canons-Ashby. The parish has been inclosed by an Act of Parliament passed in 1765, when allotments of land were assigned to the impropiator and vicar in lieu of tithes.

PULLOXHILL, in the hundred and deanery of Flitt, is situated on a hill about six miles south-east of Ampthill. It was parcel of the ancient barony of Cainhoe,

^d Cart. 11 Hen. III.

^e Esch. Edw. II.—IV.

^f Mr. Orlebar's Papers.

^g Cooper's account of Pudington, in Bib. Top. Brit.

^h Ibid.

ⁱ See Esch. Hen. III. &c.

where it is called the manor of Hinwick.

under which it was for some time held by the family of Pyrot^k. At the time of the dissolution of monasteries, the manor belonged to the priory of Dunstable. The demesne lands and the manor-house were granted by king Edward VI. in 1548, to Sir Thomas Palmer. The manor is now the property of Lady Lucas, as representative of the Greys, earls of Kent, who possessed it for several generations. The abbot of Woburn had a manor in this parish, perhaps that of Beeches and Upbury, of which George Fitz esq. died seised in 1601, as appears by his epitaph in the parish church. The manor of Ragons, with lands in Pulloxhill and Flitton, was, in the year 1521, in the family of Hill^l, who in 1691 sold it to the Earl of Aylesbury. It is now the property of the Duke of Bedford, whose grandfather purchased it of the Aylesbury family, in 1738. In the church is the monument of Sir William Bryers, who died in 1653. The rectory and advowson of the vicarage were given by John Pyrot to the priory of Dunstable. They are now vested in Lady Lucas.

RAVENSDEN, in the hundred of Barford and deanery of Eaton, lies four miles north-east of Bedford. The Pigots, Latimers, and Mowbrays, had manors in this parish, as parcels of the barony of Bedford. The Gostwicks purchased of the Mowbrays. Their estate, which seems to have been considered as the principal manor, was sold to the Marlborough family in the early part of the last century. In 1774 it was purchased by John Duke of Bedford, who, not long afterwards, conveyed it to the father of Miss Butcher, the present proprietor.

Mrs. Sarah Southouse, widow, gives a deputation to a game-keeper for Ravensden Grange in this parish; and E. W. Scrimshire Green esq. for Ravensden Grange in this parish, and Thurleigh. One of these, it is probable, belonged to the abbot and convent of Warden, who had a manor in this parish^m. The great tithes of Ravensden were appropriated to the priory of Newenham: they are now the property of the Duke of Bedford, who is patron of the vicarage.

RENHOLD (anciently RONHALE), in the hundred of Barford and deanery of Eaton, lies about three miles and a half north-east of Bedford. It was parcel of the estate of the Beauchamps, barons of Bedford, from whom it seems to have passed to the Latimers and Nevills. It was afterwards in the Gostwicksⁿ by purchase, and is now the property of John Polhill esq. The monastery of Warden had a manor in Renhold, which became their property in 1324^o. Probably this was Howberry, the seat of the Bechers from the reign of Henry VIII. till about the year 1780, when it

^k Chron. Dunst.
Edw. III.—Hen. VIII.

^l Duke of Bedford's Records.
^o Tanner.

^m Augmentation Office.

ⁿ Esch.

was purchased by the family of Polhill. It is now the property of J. Polhill esq. who has also the manors of Salphobury and Flavills in this parish. The great tithes were appropriated to the priory of Newenham. Mrs. Stevens, being the impropiator in 1749, gave them, after the decease of one or two persons, of whom the late Richard Orlebar esq. of Hinwick was the last survivor, to the vicar and his successors for ever. Mr. Polhill is patron of the vicarage.

RIDGMONT, in the hundred of Redbornstoke and deanery of Flitt, which lies about three miles north-east of Woburn, is called in old records Rugemont, *i. e.* the red hill; a name very appropriate to its situation and the colour of the soil. The principal manor in this parish belonged to the abbot and convent of Woburn, and is now the property of his Grace the Duke of Bedford. Another manor, called the manor of Segenhoe-cum-Ridgmont, was, at the time of the Norman survey, parcel of the barony of Wahul, under which it was a long while held by the Greys, Lords of Ruthin, and Earls of Kent. A branch of this family settled at Ridgmont, which from them was called formerly Ridgmont-Grey. Thomas, grandson of Reginald Lord Grey, was created, in 1450, Lord Grey of Rugemont. He was attainted, at the accession of king Edward IV. for his adherence to the house of Lancaster, and died without issue. The manor of Segenhoe-cum-Ridgmont was the property of the late Thomas Potter esq. one of his Majesty's Justices for Wales, who had a seat at Ridgmont, now, together with the manor, belonging to Dr. Macqueen, who married his daughter. Dr. Macqueen has also the manor of Bevans in this parish, so called from an ancient family which were settled there as early as the thirteenth century^p. The last of the name, a respectable yeoman, has lately quitted Ridgmont, to reside at Leighton-Bufard. There was anciently a castle at Segenhoe, which existed as late as the year 1276^q: it is probable that it was then a seat of the barons of Wahull.

The manor of Brogborough in this parish was, at the time of the Norman survey, and long afterwards, parcel of the barony of Wahull or Odell. From 1308 till 1573^r, if not later, it was held by the noble family of Grey, under that barony. It afterwards came to the crown, and was granted, in 1628, to Ditchfield and others, conveyed in 1632 to the family of Stone, and by them, in 1702, to the ancestors of his Grace the Duke of Bedford, who is the present proprietor. Brogborough Park, having continued in the crown, was, after the death of king Charles I. sold to John Okey, one of the regicides. After the Restoration it was granted to Mr. John Ashburnham, and was sold by his descendant, Lord Ashburnham, about 1725, to the Radcliffes of Hitchin in Hertfordshire, who for some

^p Chron. Dunst.^q Ibid.^r Esch. Edw. II.—Eliz.

time resided at Brogborough Park. The house has been long deserted. The estate is now the property of the Right Hon. Lady Frances Radcliffe, relict of the late John Radcliffe esq.

Bickerings Park in this parish, was, it is probable, the seat of John Bekeryng, who was knight of the shire in the reign of Edward III. It was in the crown, in the 17th century, and after the Restoration was granted to John Ashburnham esq. In 1725, Lord Ashburnham sold it to the Radcliffes; and it is now the property of Mr. Delmé Radcliffe, who has lately assumed the name, on his marriage with Miss Clarke, niece and heir of the late John Radcliffe esq.

Mr. Cooper, in his History of Odell, says that there was formerly a church at Segenhoe, which has been demolished. It is certain that Walter de Wahul gave the rectory of this parish, by the name of the church of Segenhoe, to the priory of Dunstable, about the year 1100^a. The impropriation is now vested in the Duke of Bedford, who is patron of the vicarage. The parish has been inclosed by an Act of Parliament passed in 1796, when an allotment of land was given to the impropiator in lieu of tithes.

RISELY, in the hundred of Stodden and deanery of Eaton, about 11 miles north of Bedford, appears to have been anciently parcel of the barony of Traylly, under which it was held by the families of Burnell^b and Croyser^c. It is now the property of the Right Honourable Lord St. John, whose ancestors possessed it as early as the year 1399^d. Another manor was, at an early period, in the Dayrells^e, and Perteshills or Percells^f; from 1629 to 1674, it was in the family of Elmes, of whom it was purchased by Sir Crefwell Levinz, one of the justices of the Common Pleas^g. It is now the property of the Duke of Bedford, whose grandfather purchased it of the Levinz family, in 1737. The church was given by Alice de Tonbridge to the knights templars^h, and was afterwards granted, with most of the property of that order, to the hospitallers. The impropriation is now vested in Lord St. John, who is patron of the vicarage. This parish has been inclosed by an Act of Parliament passed in 1793. An allotment of land was assigned to the impropiator for the great tithes, and a corn rent to the vicar. The vicarage had been endowed with the tithes of hay.

ROXTON, in the hundred of Barford and deanery of Eaton, lies eight miles

^a Chron. Dunst. ^b Esch. Edw. I. ^c Cart. Edw. III. ^d Collins's Peerage. ^e Cl. Hen. VI.

^f Esch. ^g Duke of Bedford's Records. ^h Dugdale.

north-east of Bedford, on the road to St. Neot's. The manor was, in 1316, the property of Walter de Baa^h, afterwards successively in the St. Johnsⁱ and Mordaunts^k. It now belongs to a minor of the name of Metcalfe, in whose family it has been for a considerable time. Sir George Throckmorton, in the year 1541, gave an estate in this parish to King Henry VIII. who, in 1547, granted it to William Box. This estate, then called the manor of Throckmortons, or Boxes, in Roxton, was, in the 17th century, in the family of Delawne^l, who possessed also another estate called the manor of Colledon, or Fitzjeffreys, being probably the same which one of that family died seised of in 1480, and which had been before for a considerable time in the family of Bosom^m. These estates have been for many years annexed to the principal manor. In the parish church is an altar-tomb in memory of Roger Hunt, of *Chalvestone*, a hamlet of this parish, who was appointed baron of the Exchequer in 1439. The great tithes of Roxton, formerly appropriated to the priory of Caldwell, are vested in the master and scholars of Trinity-College, in Cambridge, who are patrons of the vicarage.

SALFORD, in the hundred of Manshead and deanery of Flitt, lies on the borders of Buckinghamshire, about 12 miles south-west of Bedford. It was formerly the property of a family who took their name from the place, afterwards of the Drake-lowsⁿ, and, at a later period, of the Charnocks, of Hulcot, from whom it passed by marriage to the Herveys, of Chilton in Buckinghamshire: it is now the joint property of the four daughters of the late Rev. Edward Hervey. In the parish church are some ancient monuments of a family who bore, for their arms, a plain chevron. One of them has the effigies of a crusader, with an angel at his head, and two lions at his feet, under an ogie arch, richly ornamented. The great tithes of Salford, which were appropriated to the priory of Newenham, are now the property of Mrs. Barbara Hervey, sole patroness of the vicarage, which is united to Hulcot.

SANDY, in the hundred of Biggleswade and deanery of Shefford, so called from the nature of its soil, lies about nine miles east of Bedford, three from Potton, and about the same distance from Biggleswade. The manor in 1346, after the death of Roger de Beauchamp, of Eaton, who appears to have had only a life-interest in it, passed, in consequence of some family settlement, to the Engaynes^o. Thomas

^h Nomina Villarum in the British Museum.

ⁱ Collins's Peerage.

^k Mr. Cooper's Papers.

^l Esch. Car. I. ^m Nomina Villarum, and Esch. Hen. VI. ⁿ Cart. Edw. III. and Cl. Rot. Hen. VI.

^o Esch. 2^d Edw. III.

Lord Engayne, who died seised of it in 1367, left only female heirs. William Lord Spencer died seised of this manor in 1636^p. Lewis, second son of Sir Humphrey Monoux, of Wootton, in this county, who was created a baronet in 1660, was of Sandy, which has ever since been in the family, and is now the property and seat of Sir Philip Monoux bart.

The Hasells in this parish is the seat of Francis Pym esq. whose father, William Pym esq. of Radwell, became possessed of it, together with the manor of Halelefs, *alias* Hasells, by a marriage with the heiress of Heylock Kingsley esq. who died in 1749. This manor was in the Burgoynes as early as the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and was sold by John Burgoyne esq. in 1633, to Ephraim Huit, who the next year sold it to Robert Brittain, great-grandfather of Baron Brittain, of whom it was purchased by Mr. Kingsley, in 1721.

Mr. Pym has also the manor of *Girtford* in this parish, a considerable hamlet on the great north road, with a bridge over the Ivel. This manor belonged to the priory of Caldwell, and was granted in 1540 to the Burgoynes. In 1613 it was sold by William, Earl of Salisbury, to Francis Lord Ruffel. Having passed by successive alienations to the families of Taylor, Bromhall, Edwards, and Pulleyne, it was purchased of the latter by Mr. Kingsley, in 1741.

Beefton, another hamlet in this parish, lies on the opposite side of the river, in the hundred of Wixamtree. The manor belonged formerly to the abbot of Warden, who became possessed of it about the year 1386, in exchange for two manors in Cambridgeshire^q. It is now the property of Godfrey Thornton esq.

In the parish church are monuments of the Kingsleys and Pym. The burial place of the Monoux family is at Wootton. Sir Philip Monoux is patron of the rectory, to which a manor is annexed.

Certain fields in this parish were inclosed by an Act of Parliament passed in 1780, and the remainder by an Act which passed in 1798, when an allotment having been made in lieu of tithes, one third was assigned to the rector, and the remainder to Sir Philip Monoux, charged with a corn-rent to the rector: an allotment of land was given to the poor for fuel, and a small allotment to the parish clerk in addition to his salary.

An account of the ancient encampment in this parish, and of the antiquities discovered in its neighbourhood, will be found in the introduction, under the head of Roman remains, p. 24.

SHARNBROOK, in the hundred of Willey and deanery of Clopham, lies about

^p Esch. Car. I. ^q See Pat. 10 Ric. II.

nine miles north-west of Bedford. The principal manor, which appears to have been, at an earlier period, in the St. Johns¹, was for several generations in the Botelers, who had for some time a seat at Sharnbrook. It was purchased of Sir Philip Boteler bart. of Teston, in Kent, by Admiral Samuel Cornish, who was created a baronet in 1765, being described of Sharnbrook, in Bedfordshire, and died in 1770. This manor, with Tofte and Temple-Hills, was given by Sir Samuel to his nephew Samuel Pitchford, who took the name of Cornish, and is now admiral of the white. The manor of Tofte belonged to the Botelers, by a grant from the crown: the manor of Temple-Hills is supposed to be the same estate, which, having belonged to the knights templars, was granted, in 1316, to John Lord Grey, and by him conveyed to trustees for the service of the Holy Land². These manors were all purchased of Sir Philip Boteler, by Sir Samuel Cornish, in or about the year 1765.

The priory of Newenham had a manor in this parish; the family of Cobb, who were settled at Sharnbrook for several generations, had two manors here, called Parentynes and Langtons, one held under the hundred of Willey, the other of the manor of Harold³. These, together with the manor of Ouse, are now the property of John Gibbard esq. whose uncle purchased them of the family of Bullock. Mr. Gibbard has also a small estate called Cobb-Hall, and the impropriate tithes, which formerly belonged to the Cobbs, and afterwards to the Orlebars. Before the Reformation they were appropriated to the abbey of St. Mary at Leicester. The vicarage is in the gift of the crown. In the parish church, which is a handsome Gothic building, with a spire, are memorials of the families of Boteler and Antonie.

Colworth House in this parish, the seat of William Lee Antonie esq. M.P. became the property of the Antonie family about the year 1700. It devolved to the present possessor, who was son of William Lee esq. of Totteridge, and grandson of Sir William Lee, Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench, by the bequest of Richard Antonie esq. The principal part of the house was built by John Antonie esq. chief clerk of the Court of King's Bench; the wings were added by Mr. Lee, during his son's minority. It is now one of the most elegant mansions in the county.

SHELTON, in the hundred of Stodden and deanery of Eaton, lies on the borders of Northamptonshire, 14 miles from Bedford. The manor was formerly in the St. Johns⁴, afterwards in the families of Bendish⁵ and Dillingham, and now belongs to Mr. Harris, yeoman. Lord St. John has two turns in the patronage of the rec-

¹ Collins's Peerage.

² Ibid.

³ Esch. Eliz.

⁴ Collins's Peerage.

⁵ Esch. Car. I.

tory; and Mr. Freeman, of Long-Buckby, in Northamptonshire, one. The parish has been inclosed by an Act of Parliament, passed in 1794, when a corn-rent was given to the rector in lieu of tithes.

SHITLINGTON, anciently *Sethlingdone*, in the hundred of Clifton and deanery of Shefford, lies about four miles from that town. The manor was in the Napier family as early as the year 1651^{*}; and it is not improbable that it had been before in the Rotherams, who preceded the Napiers in the possession of the manor of Luton. After the death of Sir John Napier, the last baronet of that family, in 1747, the manor of Shitlington was sold. It is now the property of Joseph Musgrave esq. who purchased it, in 1760, of Robert, Earl of Holderness.

Shitlington-Bury, which seems to have been formerly the manor house, was left, in 1764, by John Briscoe esq. to Henry, Earl of Suffex, for life, which has occasioned Shitlington-bury to be described, in some books and maps, as a seat of the earls of Suffex. After the earl's death, Mr. Briscoe gave the estate in fee to the heirs at law of the two daughters of Grey Longueville esq. of Shitlington. On the earl's death, in 1800, one moiety descended to Grey Arnold, whose father, Thomas Arnold, although in the humble station of a toll-gatherer at a turnpike near Dunstable, and supporting a numerous family with a small pittance, honourably refused to deprive his son of his patrimony, by selling his reversionary interest in this estate, though the money arising from the sale would have rescued himself and family from poverty. This Thomas Arnold was grandson of Margaret, the elder daughter of Grey Longueville esq. above-mentioned. The other moiety descended to the wife of Mr. George Antt, as representative of the younger daughter of Mr. Longueville.

The manor of Aspley-bury, in this parish, was many years in the family of Franklin. It is now the property of Joseph Musgrave esq. whose uncle, of the same name, inherited it by bequest, from his relation, Sir Thomas Franklin bart. who died in 1728. This manor extends into Ion and Gravenhurst.

The parish church is a large and handsome Gothic structure. The tower, which fell down in 1701, was re-built in 1750, through the exertions of Mr. George Story, then curate, by a brief, a subscription, and a parish rate. In the church are monuments of the families of Longueville and Briscoe; and the tomb, with his effigies on a brass plate, of Mathew de Affhton, rector of Shitlington, and canon of Lincoln, who died in 1400. The rectory and rectorial manor, given in ancient

^{*} Court Rolls of the Manor.

times to the abbey of Ramsey, by Ætheric bishop of that see, who purchased them of some Danes, to whom they had been given by King Canute^y, are now vested in the Master and Scholars of Trinity College, Cambridge. The vicarage, which is endowed, is in the gift of that College. The parish of Shitlington has been inclosed by an Act of Parliament passed in 1802, when an allotment of land was assigned to the impropiator in lieu of tithes.

SOULDROP, sometimes written SOUTHDROP, in the hundred of Willey and deanery of Clopham, lies in the north part of the county, about eleven miles from Bedford. The manor belongs in part to Admiral Cornish, and in part to the Duke of Bedford. That which belongs to the Admiral was formerly in the Cobbs, and was purchased, with Sharnbrook, of Sir Philip Boteler, in or about 1765, by Sir Samuel Cornish. The other has passed with the manor of Knotting. The parish church has been lately re-built, excepting the spire, which, being situated on high ground, is, though not lofty, a conspicuous object for several miles round. The Duke of Bedford is patron of the rectory, which is consolidated with Knotting. The parish of Souldrop has been inclosed, under an Act of Parliament which passed in 1770. An allotment of land was assigned to the rector in lieu of the tithes of open fields, and a tithe-rent of two shillings in the pound for the old inclosures.

SOUTHILL, in the hundred of Wixamtree, lies about two miles north of Shefford, about four miles south-west of Biggleswade, and about nine miles from Bedford. In ancient records it is called South Yewel. The manor belongs to Lord Ongley, by descent in the female line from Samuel Ongley esq. who was sheriff of the county in 1703, and was afterwards knighted. His Lordship has also the manor of Stanford or Stamfordbury in this parish. The monks of Warden Abbey had a manor in this parish in 1369, called Gatelins-Bury.

Sir George Byng, a celebrated naval officer in the reign of Queen Anne and George I. purchased an estate, and settled in this parish. In 1721 he was created a peer, by the title of Baron Byng of Southill, and Viscount Torrington. He died in 1733, and lies buried in the parish church. His unfortunate son, Admiral John Byng, who seems to have fallen a victim to the violence of party, was born and interred at Southill. There is an inscription to his memory in the family *columbarium*, which may be thought to betray too much resentment for so sacred a place, though some allowance is undoubtedly to be made for the feelings of his family. The present Lord Torrington sold his estate at

^y Hist. Ang. Scrip. III. 445.

Southill to the late Mr. Whitbread in 1795. It is now the property of his son, Samuel Whitbread esq. M.P. whose feat ranks among the first in the county.

Southill-House was built about the year 1795, by Holland. The internal decorations are very elegant. Over the doors of some of the principal rooms are animals in basso-relievo by Garrard, and paintings of live game by Gilpin. In the billiard-room is a collection of Garrard's models of sheep and cattle. Over the book-cases in the library are portraits of the principal clerks in the late Mr. Whitbread's brewery; and over the chimney-piece, that of Mr. Whitbread himself, placed there by his son, with the following appropriate and modest motto, "Nobis hæc otia fecit."

In the parish church is a monument for Dilly the bookseller, who died in 1779, and several memorials of the family of Nodes. In the *columbarium* belonging to the Byngs are several inscriptions in memory of that family; George Viscount Torrington, 1732-3; Pattee Viscount Torrington, 1746-7; George Viscount Torrington, 1750, &c. &c. It is shut up from public view. The great tithes of Southill were appropriated to the priory of Newenham. The vicarage, which is now consolidated with Old Warden, is in the deanery of Shefford. Mr. Whitbread is the patron. The parish has been inclosed by an Act of Parliament passed in 1797, when allotments of land were made to Mr. Whitbread and Mr. Barber, as improPRIATORS of the great tithes, and to the vicar. The number of acres in the parish was then computed at 2600.

STAGSDEN, in the hundred of Willey and deanery of Clopham, which lies five miles west of Bedford, on the road to Newport-Pagnell, belonged to the family of Jemys from the year 1311 to 1428^a, and passed afterwards, by heirs female, to the families of Ravenhall and Finaunce^a. It is now the property of Lord Viscount Hampden, by inheritance from his ancestors, the Trevors. The great tithes, which were appropriated to the priory of Newenham, are now vested in the Master and Scholars of Trinity College, Cambridge. Lord Hampden is patron of the vicarage.

LITTLE STAUGHTON, in the hundred of Stodden and deanery of Eaton, about four miles from Kimbolton, was so called to distinguish it from the adjoining parish of Great Staughton, in the county of Huntingdon. The manor was formerly in the families of Peyvre^b and Dayrell^c. In 1700 it was purchased of John Spicer, *alias* Hilder, by Henry Kingsley esq. whose grand-daughter brought it in marriage

^a Esch. Edw. II.—Hen. VI.

^a See Esch. 6 Hen. VI. and 37 Hen. VI.

^b Cart. Hen. III.

^c Cl. Rot. Hen. VI.

to William Pym esq. of Radwell in Herts, father of the present proprietor, Francis Pym esq. of the Hafells, in the parish of Sandy.

In the parish church are some memorials of the family of Gery of Bushmead. The rectory is in the patronage of Christ-Church College, in Oxford. It formerly belonged to the Knights Templars. Certain common fields in this parish, containing about 1000 acres, have been inclosed by an Act of Parliament passed in 1801, when an allotment was made to the rector in lieu of tithes.

STEPINGLEY, in the hundred of Redbornstoke and deanery of Flitt, lies about three miles south-west of Ampthill. The manor passed through the same hands as Ampthill, being parcel of that honor, till the exchange between the late Duke of Bedford and the Earl of Offory, when the lease of this manor was reserved by the former, and is now vested in his brother, the present Duke, who is patron of the rectory. The family of Abbot of Stepingley Park served the office of sheriff in 1681 and 1722. The advowson was, in ancient times, given to the priory of Dunstable by Robert de Stepingley^d.

STEVENTON, or STEVINGTON, in the hundred of Willey and deanery of Clogham, lies about six miles from Bedford, to the north of the road to Olney. The manor was the property of Roger de Quincy, Earl of Winchester, who died in 1264^e, and passed, by the marriage of a co-heiress of his brother Robert, to Baldwin Wake^f, who in 1281 had the king's licence to build a castle in Steventon Marsh^g. After the death of Thomas Lord Wake, it came by marriage to the Plantagenets, Earls of Kent and Huntingdon, and Dukes of Exeter. Joan Plantagenet, the fair maid of Kent, whose second husband was Edward the Black Prince, died seized of it in 1386^h, when it descended to the son of her first husband, Thomas Holland, Earl of Kent, who became Duke of Exeter. Anne, Duchess of Exeter, sister of King Henry IV. died seized of it in 1476ⁱ. It is probable that Steventon Castle, of which there are now no remains, was the residence of some of the above-mentioned noble and illustrious persons. The manor of Steventon has been for a considerable time in the Alston family, and is now the property of Thomas Alston esq. The church of Steventon was given, in the reign of King John^k, to the nuns of Harold, to whom the great tithes were appropriated: they are now the property of Earl Spencer. The Duke of Bedford is patron of the vicarage. Upon the inclosure of the parish of Pavingham under an Act of Parliament passed in 1769, the vicar of Steventon, being entitled to the great and small tithes of copyhold tything in

^d Chron. Dunst.

^e Esch. Hen. III.

^f Dugdale's Baronage.

^g Pat. 9 Edw. I.

^h Esch. Rich. II.

ⁱ Esch. Edw. IV.

^k Cart. 7. John.

that parish, had an allotment of land assigned him in lieu of them. Seven acres of land were given to the church of Steventon, before the Reformation, for a *drinking* or church ale. In the centre of the village is an ancient cross, consisting of a tall shaft, with a capital, placed on an ascent of steps.

STONDON, in the hundred of Clifton, lies three miles south-east of Shefford, on the borders of Hertfordshire. The manor belonged anciently to the Mepperhalls¹, afterwards to Lord Wenlock and the Rotherams^m, and at a later period to the noble family of Grey. It is now the property of their representative, the Right Hon. Lady Lucas. The present incumbent, the Rev. Thomas Leach, is patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Shefford. *Lower* or *Nether-Stondon* is a hamlet of this parish.

STOTFOLD, in the hundred of Clifton, lies about five miles south-east of Shefford, on the borders of Hertfordshire, near the road to Baldock. A manor in Stotfold, which was parcel of the barony of Bedford, and descended by female heirs to the Mowbrays and Berkeleys, was given by the Marquis of Berkeley to Sir Reginald Brayⁿ. This, by the name of Lord Bray's manor, is the property of Isaac Hindley esq. who purchased it, in 1786, of the Dentons, whose ancestor acquired it in like manner of the Ansell's in the year 1617. Another manor in Stotfold was given by one of the Beauchamps, Barons of Bedford, to the priory of Newenham; and, after the Reformation, was granted, in 1546, to Richard Kyrke. After having been for a short time in the families of Butler and Ansell, it passed to the Lyttons, of whose descendants it was purchased, in 1795, by the present proprietor, Mr. John Williamson. The Master and Scholars of Trinity College are patrons of the vicarage, and impropiators of the great tithes, which, with the rectorial manor now vested in the College, was given by Simon de Beauchamp to the priory of Chicksand.

STRETLY, in the hundred of Flitt and deanery of Dunstable, lies about six miles from Luton, a little to the west of the road to Ampthill. In the reign of Edward I. the manor was in the Gobions^o, from whom it passed by a female heir to the Botelers. In 1637 John Lord Boteler died seized of the manors of Stretly and Sharpenhoe, leaving an only son, William, who had been an idiot from his birth^p. At his decease the title became extinct. This manor was afterwards in the family of Nodes, from whom it passed by inheritance to the Goldsmiths. It was lately the property of Mr. Marshall, and is at present the subject of a suit in Chancery.

¹ Esch. Edw. II. & III.

^m Cl. Edw. IV.

ⁿ Rot. Parl. VI. 529.

^o Esch.

^p Esch. Car. I.

The family of Wingate had a feat at *Sharpenhoe*, a hamlet of this parish, for several generations^a; and here it was that Edmund Wingate, the arithmetician, is said to have been born. The manor is now the property of the Rev. John Smyth, in whose family it has been for several years. James de Cauz had a chantry in his chapel at Sharpenhoe in 1235^f. At this hamlet is a charity-school for eight children, founded in 1686 by Richard Norton, and endowed with a rent-charge of 10l. *per annum*.

The great tithes of Stretly were appropriated to the priory of the Holy Trinity *de Bosco*, commonly called Markate. They are now the property of J. R. Cuthbert esq. who is patron of the vicarage.

STUDHAM, in the hundred of Manshead, lies about six miles south of Dunstable, on the borders of Hertfordshire, in which county a considerable part of the parish is situated. The manor is supposed to have been anciently in the Wahuls, who had a feat at Shortgrave in this parish. It was afterwards in the De la Poles. John De la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, and Elizabeth his wife, gave it to the church of Windsor^g, under which it is now held on lease by George Goodwin esq. Robert, Earl of Carnarvon, who fell at the battle of Newbury, is said to have died seized of the manor of Studham in Bedfordshire^h. It is probable that this was some other estate in the parish.

The manor of *Humberfloe*, a hamlet partly in this parish and partly in Caddington, formerly written Humbricestho or Humbrilishoe, lies partly in Hertfordshire. In the 13th century it belonged to the family of Young, who founded a chantry in their chapel thereⁱ. At a later period it belonged to the families of Ferrers^j and Coppin. It is now the property of Mr. William Shone by a late purchase from Mr. Lambert, who bought it of the Coppins.

Rarworth, a hamlet of this parish, lying wholly in Hertfordshire, had a chapel of ease, long ago dilapidated. William Eldefdone founded a chantry in this chapel in 1236^k. The manor, of which nothing is now known, was given by King Henry II. to the priory of Dunstable. Shortgrave in this parish, formerly a feat of the Wahuls^l, is now the joint property of Joseph Vandermeulen, Wortham Hitch, and John Hitch, esqrs.

The parish church was dedicated in 1220^m. The great tithes and rectorial manor of Studham belonged to the priory of Dunstable. They are now the joint property of Edward Nicolls esq. the Rev. John Wheeldon, and the representatives of the late Thomas Vaux esq. The vicarage, which is in the deanery of Dunstable, is in

^a Bedfordshire Pedigrees, in the British Museum. ^f Chron. Dunst. ^g Hist. of Windsor, p. 110. ^h Esch. Car. I. ⁱ Chron. Dunst. ^j Esch. Car. I. ^k Chron. Dunst. ^l Ibid. ^m Ibid.

the gift of the crown. Three acres of land were given to the church before the Reformation, for the purpose of buying frankincense.

SUNDON, anciently SONINGDON, in the hundred of Flitt, lies about five miles north-east of Dunstable. It had formerly a weekly market on Fridays, and a fair granted by the crown in 1316^z. The manor was anciently in the Clares, earls of Gloucester. Richard, Earl of Cornwall, and king of the Romans, possessed it 40 years, in right of his wife Isabel, widow of Gilbert Clare, Earl of Gloucester. It had scarcely reverted to the Clares, when Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, became possessed of it, in 1272, by marrying the sister of Gilbert, then Earl of Gloucester, grandson of his father's wife^a. The manor passed afterwards, by conveyance, to Bartholomew de Baddlesmere and Margaret his wife^b, and by marriage from the Baddlesmeres to the Tiptofts^c. It was afterwards successively in the Scroops of Bolton^d, and the Cheynes; the latter of whom continued to possess it so lately as the beginning of the last century^e: about which time it became the property of William Clayton esq. who was created an Irish peer by the title of Lord Sundon, in 1735. It was lately the property of Sir John Buchanan Riddell bart. by inheritance from his uncle, Mr. Buchanan, who purchased it of Lord Sundon's heirs. The present proprietor, J. R. Cuthbert esq. bought it of Sir J. B. Riddell in 1803. In the church are some tombs of the Cheynes. The great tithes, which were appropriated to the priory of Margate or Markate, are now the property of Mr. Cuthbert. He is also patron of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Dunstable. This parish has been inclosed by an Act of Parliament passed in 1768. *Upper Sundon* is a hamlet in this parish.

SUTTON, in the hundred of Biggleswade and deanery of Shefford, lies about three miles north-east of Biggleswade, and about a mile and a half south of Potton. In the reign of King Henry II. Robert Foliot, a baron, married Margaret, daughter and sole heir of Richard de Reincourt, lord of Sutton in Bedfordshire^f; which passed in like manner, by heirs female, to the baronial families of Ledet, Braybroke, and Latimer^g. There is a current tradition^h, that it belonged afterwards to John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, who gave it by a rhyming grant to Roger Burgoyne, ancestor of the present possessor; and a moated site in the park is known by the name of John of Gaunt's Castle. The tradition, as far as relates to the grant, appears to be totally destitute of foundation; and there is no positive evidence that

^z Cart. Edw. II.^a Chron. Dunst.^b Rot. Parl. II. 430.^c Dugdale's Baronage, vol. ii.^d Dugdale.^e Magna Britannia.^f Dugdale.^g See the Matches in Dugdale.^h See Coke's Copyholder.

it was ever possessed by the Duke of Lancaster. It appears, that he claimed the manor in 1365, as being entitled to it under a deed, by which it was entailed on the heirs of Thomas, Earl of Lancaster. The manor was then in the possession of Elizabeth Latimer, widow¹; the verdict is not recorded. It is probable, that a compromise took place; for the manor of Potton, which was entailed also, by the same deed, on the heirs of the Earl of Lancaster, descended to the Nevilles, as heirs of the Latimer family: but Sutton appears to have been, in 1433, the property of Sir Thomas Swinford^k, probably a son of John of Gaunt's wife, by her first husband. It was afterwards in the families of Enderby and Powley^l; the Powleys appear to have continued in possession as late as the year 1568.

The Burgoynes, who had been settled at a more remote period in Cambridgeshire, first appear on record as possessed of lands in this county about the year 1456; when William Burgoyne died seised of part of the manor of Wootton^m. Richard Burgoyne, who died in 1463, had the manor of Bosoms in Wootton, and other lands, but none in Suttonⁿ. Thomas Burgoyne, who died in 1516, and was buried at Sutton, is the first who appears to have been connected with this parish; and the family seems not to have been possessed of the manor till after the year 1568, probably by purchase from the Powleys. John Burgoyne esq. was created a baronet in 1641. His immediate descendant, Sir Montague Burgoyne bart., is the present proprietor.

In the parish church are some handsome monuments of the Burgoyne family. The learned Bishop Stillingfleet was presented to the rectory of Sutton by Sir Roger Burgoyne, the second baronet. Here he is said to have written his *Origines Sacrae*. He resigned the living in 1665. The rectory is now, by purchase from the Burgoynes, in the patronage of St. John's College, Oxford. An Act of Parliament passed, in 1742, for facilitating the inclosure of this parish, and securing an equivalent to the rector in lieu of tithes.

TEMPSFORD, in the hundred of Biggleswade and deanery of Shefford, is situated on the great northern road, between Biggleswade and Eaton-Socon, near the confluence of the Ouse and the Ivel. Our ancient historians speak of this place as a Danish town, which was taken by King Edward in 921°. In 1010, being then in possession of the English, it was burnt by an army of Danes^p. The manor was anciently in the families of Brettville^q and Blundell^r, it was purchased of the

¹ Placit. &c. de terris in Turr. Lond. (Co. Bedford, N° 20.)
under the name of Harpeden.

^k Esch. Hen. VII. and Eliz.

^l See Esch. 12 Hen. VI.

^m Esch. Edw. IV.
by William Bray esq.

ⁿ Sax. Chron.
^r Ibid.

^p Ibid.

^q Esch. Hen. VI.

^r Papers communicated

latter by Roger de la Leye, and passed, by marriage with his daughter and heir, to Hugh de Bray¹. This manor was the property and seat of the late Sir John Payne bart.; it was purchased by his father, Sir Gillias Payne bart. in 1772, of Messrs. Berners and Hagar, who married the co-heiresses of the Bendish family.

In the church are memorials of the families of Chetwode and Payne. The rectory is in the gift of the crown; the advowson belonged formerly to the priory of St. Neot's². The parish has been inclosed by an Act of Parliament passed in 1777, when an allotment of land was assigned to the rector in lieu of tithes, and a rent for the tithes of old inclosures.

THURLEY, or THURLEIGH, in the hundred of Willey and deanery of Eaton, lies about eight miles north of Bedford. John de Hervey, ancestor of the Earl of Bristol, became possessed of a manor in Thurleigh by marriage with the heiress of John Harman or Hammon³; he made Thurleigh his principal seat, and died about the year 1292; his family were several times knights of the shire. Sir George Hervey, who was knighted by King Henry VIII. for his bravery at the siege of Tournay, died in 1526, leaving his manor of Thurleigh to Gerard, his illegitimate son by Margaret Smart, who was knighted, and took the name of Hervey⁴: his descendants continued at Thurleigh till the death of John Hervey esq. in 1715: but this manor had been alienated at an earlier period, and was, in 1708, the property of Sir John Holt, of whose descendant, Thomas Holt esq. it was purchased, in 1790, by the late Duke of Bedford. Another manor was in the St. Johns, as early as the year 1391⁵, and was purchased of the Earl of Bolingbroke by the ancestor of the present proprietor, John Crawley esq. of Stockwood in Luton.

Blackburn-Hall, *alias* Black-Bull-Hall, now a farm-house, in this parish, within a moated site, had been the property of the Fitz-jefferys, of Creakers, in Barford, for a considerable time preceding the year 1651, when it passed out of that family by mortgage, and was purchased in 1707, of the representatives of the mortgagees, by Sir Nathan Wright bart. In 1733, it was sold by the Wrights to Robert Bell esq. maternal grandfather of the late William Gery esq.; it is now the property of his son-in-law the Rev. Hugh Wade Gery.

The Franklyns had a seat at Thurleigh for several generations⁶.

Mr. Crawley is lessee of the impropriate tithes under Trinity-College, Cambridge, and is patron of the vicarage. Near the church-yard is a circular mount, with an

¹ Mr. Bray's Papers.

² Plac. &c. de terris in com. Bed. in Turr. Lond.

³ Collins's Peerage.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Bedfordshire Pedigrees in the British Museum.

entrenchment, called Bury Hill, which appears to have been the site of an ancient mansion, perhaps that of John de Hervey before-mentioned.

TILBROOK, in the hundred of Stodden and deanery of Eaton, lies on the borders of Huntingdonshire, about a mile and a half from Kimbolton, on the road from Wellingborough to that town. The manor belonged to the Clares, Earls of Gloucester, from whom it descended to Humphrey Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, who died in 1460^y. In 1485 it was confirmed to Catharine, widow of Jasper, Duke of Bedford^z, and was afterwards the property of Sir James Fitzgarret, who was attainted in 1538^a. It is now the property of the Right Honourable Lord St. John, in whose family it has been for a considerable time. His Lordship is also patron of the rectory. The parish has been inclosed by an Act of Parliament, passed in 1800, when a small allotment of land was given to the rector, who was farther compensated by a corn-rent. The parish contains about 1380 acres.

TILSWORTH, in the hundred of Manshead, lies about four miles north-west of Dunstable, near the Watling-Street. The manor was anciently in the family of Morteye^b, from whom it passed by marriage to the Chamberleyne's. In the 16th century it was in the family of Fowler^c. It is now the property of Charles Chester esq. whose father, a younger brother of the late Lord Bagot, took the name of Chester on succeeding to the estates of Sir Charles Bagot Chester bart. the last heir male of the Chesters, of Chichley, in Buckinghamshire and of Tilsworth. Sir Anthony Chester, their ancestor, was created a baronet in 1619. The old mansion, which was a seat of the Fowlers, and afterwards of the Chesters, is in a state of dilapidation.

In the parish church are monuments of Sir Henry Chester K.B. who died in 1666, and some of the Fowler family. There is also an altar-tomb with the effigies of an ecclesiastic under a Gothic arch, and a slab, with an ancient French inscription, in memory of Adam de Tulleworth. The great tithes were appropriated to the priory of Beachwood. The manor was inclosed by an Act of Parliament passed in 1767, when an allotment of land was given to Mr. Chester, in lieu of the great tithes, and the annual sum of 31l. 10s. was settled in lieu of small tithes on the vicar. Mr. Chester is patron of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Dunstable.

TINGRITH, in the hundred of Manshead and deanery of Flitt, lies about four miles east of Woburn, about two miles and a half north of Toddington, and about

^y Esch. Hen. VI.

^z Rot. Parl. VI. 284.

^a Records in the Augmentation Office.

^b Nomina Villarum in the British Museum. N^o 6281. Harl. MSS.

^c Esch. Eliz.

five miles nearly to the south of Ampthill. The manor, which had been the property of Lord Fanhope, was afterwards successively in the families of Grey and Cheyne^d. Robert Hodgson, whose monument is in the parish church, died seised of it in 1611. After this it was in the family of Charnock, of whom it was purchased, about 1710, by the ancestor of Charles Dymoke Willaume esq. the present proprietor, who is patron of the rectory, and has a seat here. Part of Tingrith is within Sir John Everett's manor of Westoning.

TODDINGTON, in the hundred of Manshead, seven miles from Ampthill, and five from Dunstable, was, till of late years, a considerable market town. The market was originally held on Thursdays, by grant from King Henry III. in 1218^e. It was changed to Saturday, by a charter of King Edward II. in 1316, which charter was confirmed by King Richard II. in 1385^f. In 1681, the market at Toddington was so considerable, that sixteen butchers rented stalls in the market-place^g. It declined by degrees, and has been of late wholly discontinued. The market-house was pulled down in 1799, and the materials sold. It is probable, that it had been before discontinued, and afterwards revived, as Leland does not include Toddington in his list of the market towns in Bedfordshire. A fair on the festival of St. George, was granted by the charters of 1218 and 1316. The present fairs are five in number; April 25th, the first Monday in June, September 4th, November 2d, and December 16th. The number of houses, as returned to Parliament, in 1801, pursuant to the Population Act, was 360; that of inhabitants, 1143.

The manor of Toddington was given by William the Conqueror, to Ernulfus de Hesdin, ancestor of the Earls of Perch; on the death of Thomas, the last earl, in 1216, his heir, the bishop of Chalons sold it to William Mareshall, Earl of Pembroke^h. Eleanor, widow of William Mareshall, Earl of Pembroke, (sister of King Henry III.) held it in dower in 1231ⁱ. Contemporary with this was another smaller manor, of which William Longespée, Earl of Salisbury, was seised, in 1217^k. It was then valued at 5*l.* *per annum*.

In the early part of Henry III.'s reign, Paulinus Peyvre had the manor of Toddington, which, at first, it is probable, he held under the Marshalls, and in 1224, he acquired, of Hugh Wadlowe, all his estate in Wadlowe, probably the same which is now called the manor of Wadloes, on condition of providing him with clothes and maintenance during his life^l. This Paulinus Peyvre, steward of the household to King Henry III. was a man of mean origin, and when he went to court,

^d Esch. Eliz. ^e Cl. Rot. Hen. III. ^f Pat. 9 Ric. II. ^g Papers in the possession of the rector. ^h See the Account of Newbury, in Berkshire. ⁱ Chron. Dunst. ^k Cl. 1 Hen. III.

^l Chron. Dunst.

was not possessed of two carucates of land ; but by means, lawful and unlawful, as Matthew Paris observes, acquired such wealth, that he soon became possessed of more than 500 carucates : a most insatiable purchaser of lands, says the historian, and a most incomparable builder. Not to speak of those in other places, his house at Toddington was like a palace, with a chapel, chambers, and other buildings, covered with lead, which raised the admiration of the beholders. His workmen are said to have received 100s. and more than 10 marks a week for their wages. The site of this noble mansion is not known. The Chronicle of Dunstaple mentions, that Paulinus Peyvre built the chamber over his gate at Wadlowe, in 1244. It is not improbable, that he might have had a house at Toddington, and another at Wadlowe, then a considerable hamlet, about a mile distant from Toddington, of which not a single house remains, but there are considerable traces of buildings in a field which goes by the same name. Near the church at Toddington, is a mount called Conger-Hill, which seems to have been the keep of a castellated mansion, and there are considerable earth-works near it. This might have been the site of Sir Paulinus Peyvre's mansion. This favourite of fortune died in 1251. John Lord Grey married his widow, and having purchased of the King the marriage of his son, then a minor, married him to his own daughter, at his manor of Water-Eaton, in Buckinghamshire. Queen Eleanor, the consort of King Edward I., had the custody of this manor during John Peyvre's minority ^m.

Mary, daughter and heir of Thomas Peyvre, the sixth in descent from Sir Paulinus, married Sir John Broughton, whose daughter and co-heir, Anne, brought this manor in marriage to Sir Thomas Cheney K. G. Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports. His son Henry was knighted by Queen Elizabeth, in 1563, she being then on a visit to him at Toddington. In 1572, he was created Lord Cheney, of Toddington. Dying in 1587, without issue, his estates devolved to his wife, who was daughter of Thomas Lord Wentworth, of Nettlested, and were inherited by her relations. In the month of July, 1608, Toddington was honoured with a visit by King James I. ⁿ

On the death of Thomas, Earl of Cleveland, in 1667, the barony of Wentworth, and this estate, passed to his grand-daughter and sole heir, Henrietta, who became Baroness Wentworth in her own right, and resided at Toddington, with an illustrious inmate, the unfortunate Duke of Monmouth. In an ancient plan of the manor-house, two adjoining rooms are called the Duke of Monmouth's parlour, and my Lady's parlour. The Duke's attachment to Lady Wentworth continued to his death. On the scaffold, he spoke in vindication of her honour, although it was sufficiently notorious, nor did he deny it to the divines who attended him,

^m Chron. Dunst.

ⁿ Mr. Archer's notes in the Register of Houghton-Conquest.

that they lived together as man and wife, after he had forsaken the Duchess^o. Lady Wentworth is said to have died broken-hearted, in consequence of his untimely end. It is certain that she survived his execution but a few months. Upon her death the barony of Wentworth, and this estate, passed to Lady Anne, wife of John Lord Lovelace, and were inherited by their daughter Martha, who attended at the coronation of Queen Anne, as Baroness Wentworth. She married Sir Henry Johnson, a rich ship-builder at Poplar, who resided at Toddington with his lady, and was buried there in 1719. His only daughter, by a former wife, married Thomas, Earl of Strafford, who became possessed of this estate, which is now vested in the trustees of the late Right Honourable Thomas Conolly, who was son of his daughter, Lady Anne. The manor of Youngs, in this parish, seems to have passed by the same title, and is now vested in Mr. Conolly's trustees.

Lord Cheney built a noble mansion at Toddington, about half a mile from the church, of which nothing now remains but the kitchen, which is remarkably spacious, having two fire-places, each 12 feet in width, and a few rooms fitted up as a farm-house. The greater part of the building was pulled down by the Earl of Strafford, about the year 1745. It appears by an ancient plan of the house^p, that it occupied four sides of a quadrangle, at each corner of which was a turret: the north and south fronts were 210 feet in length; the chapel was 30 feet by 24; the tennis-court 65 feet in length, and a marble gallery, 58.

The manor of Wadloes before-mentioned, did not pass to the Wentworths. Early in the 17th century it was in the family of Astrey^q, of whom it was inherited by the present proprietor, Francis Penylton esq. who, reserving the manor, has sold the farm to John Wingate Jennings esq. of Harlington. The manor of *Charlton*, a hamlet in this parish, now belongs to Mr. Cox, who purchased it of the present Viscount Howe. It has of late years passed through several hands.

The parish church is a handsome Gothic structure; the frieze, on the outside, is decorated with various grotesque figures of animals. The north and south transepts, belonging to the lord of the manor, are in a most shameful state of dilapidation. In the south transept are some ancient monuments of the Peyvres; as appears by the arms: one of them was a crusader. In the same transept are monuments of Anne, wife of Sir Thomas Cheney, K.G. 1561, Henry Lord Cheney, 1587, and his widow, Jane Lady Cheney, 1614. On each of these were the effigies of the deceased, now much mutilated, and lying on the ground, mingled with the broken ornaments of the tombs, and the dung of birds and bats. The

^o Granger's Biographical History.

^p It was, in 1802, on a fire-screen at the Farm.

^q Esch. Car. I.

north transept, which was the burial place of the Wentworths, is not in a much better condition. The costly monument of Henrietta, Lady Wentworth, the Duke of Monmouth's mistress, who died in 1686, on which her mother, who survived her ten years, directed the large sum of 2000*l.* to be expended, and another monument, which appears to have been no less costly, in memory of Lady Maria Wentworth, who died at the premature age of 18, in 1632, are in a state little better than those of the Cheney's. The windows of the aisle being without glass, and the roof much decayed, they are daily receiving fresh injury, by being exposed to the ravages of the weather, and the depredations of children. In the epitaph on Lady Maria Wentworth, the following passage, alluding to her early death, affords a curious specimen of the extravagant mode of expression in that age. The writer tells us that

———" Her soul grew so fast within,
 " It broke the outward shell of Sin,
 " And so was hatch'd a cherubim."

In a more sober strain, he describes her character as very amiable, by saying that she was

" Good to the poor, to kindred dear,
 " To servants kind, to friendship clear,
 " To nothing but herself severe."

In the chancel is a monument in memory of Giles Bruce, eldest son of Sir John Bruce, of Winham, in Suffolk, who died at Toddington, in 1595, being on a visit to his sister Alice, then *attending on* the Lady Cheney. Mr. Conolly is patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Dunstable. The parish has been inclosed by an Act of Parliament, passed in 1797, when an allotment of land was made to Mr. Conolly, as entitled to a moiety of the great tithes; and an allotment not to exceed 150 acres was made to the rector, who was also to have a corn-rent, equivalent to his farther interest in the other moiety. The number of acres in the parish, was then computed at 2800.

Abraham Hartwell, a learned writer of the 17th century, was rector of Toddington, where he founded a library for the use of his successors^r.

John Reinolds, the epigrammatist, is said, by Anthony Wood, to have been a native of this place.

In the year 1443, a hospital was founded at Toddington, in honour of St. John the Baptist, by Sir John Broughton, for three poor men; and a master, or chaplain,

^r Harwood's Alumni Etonenses, p. 173.

who were to pray for the souls of Thomas Peyvre, and Margaret his wife, and their ancestors. Sir John Milner was the last master of this hospital, which was dissolved by the lord warden Cheney, without the king's licence. It was seized, in consequence, by the crown, but afterwards granted to the Cheney family¹. There are, now, no traces of the hospital; the stones were used in building the market-house which has been lately pulled down. Its site was near the spot which is called Conger-Hill.

TOTERNHOE, in the hundred of Manshead, lies about two miles to the west of Dunstable. It belonged formerly to the families of Cantilupe and Zouche². Sir Reginald Bray became possessed of it by a grant from the crown, in 1513. It has since passed with Eaton-Bray, and is now the property of William Beckford esq. The church was given by Walter de Wahul, of Shortgrave, to the priory and convent of Dunstable, who endowed the vicarage in 1220³. The late Alderman Wilkes was possessed of the rectory and advowson, in right of his wife, who was a descendant of the celebrated physician, Dr. Mead. Since the death of Miss Wilkes, they are become the property of his nephew. Toternhoe is in the deanery of Dunstable.

TURVEY, in the hundred of Willey and deanery of Clopham, lies on the borders of Buckinghamshire, eight miles from Bedford, in the road to Olney. Eustace le Mordaunt, grandson of Sir Osbert le Mordaunt, who lived in the reign of William the Conqueror, became possessed of the manor of Turvey, by marriage with the heiress of Sir William de Alneto, or Dawney⁴. William Mordaunt, in 1297, had the king's licence to inclose a park at Turvey⁵, which became the chief seat of that ancient family. Sir John Mordaunt was created Baron Mordaunt of Turvey, in 1532. His descendant, John, Lord Mordaunt, was created Earl of Peterborough, in 1628. Turvey-Hall, having been long deserted by its noble owners, and occupied as a farm, was sold by the present Earl of Peterborough, to the late William Fuller esq. a banker in London, and is now the property of his daughters. The manor was sold to Charles Higgins esq. whose nephew, John Higgins, jun. is the present proprietor. Mr. Higgins's seat is called (for what reason does not appear) Turvey-Abbey. There is no record or trace of a religious house here, nor does any part of the parish appear to have been monastic property, excepting a small manor which belonged to the *Priory* of St. Neot's. It is probable that Mr. Higgins's house might have been the site of that manor.

¹ Papers in the possession of Mr. Dixon, the rector.

² Esch. Rich. II—Edw. IV.

³ Chron. Dunst.

⁴ History of the House of Mordaunt.

⁵ Collins's Peerage.

Edward Dudley esq. who died in 1641, was seized of an estate in this parish, called the manor of *Turveys*, held under the Earl of Peterborough's manor of Turvey. He left three daughters, co-heiresses¹. This estate came afterwards to the Mordaunts, who possessed the whole landed property of the parish. Its name has been long forgotten.

In the parish church are monuments of Sir John Mordaunt, and the three first barons. Sir John was chancellor of the duchy of Lancaster, and father of the first Lord Mordaunt. He died in 1504, having, by his will, founded a chantry in the parish church of Turvey, and endowed it with lands for the support of two chaplains, to pray for the souls of himself, his kindred, and his ancestors. His effigies is represented in armour, over which is a robe with a collar of S. S. His lady is in a robe, with a rich coif. The monument of John, the first Lord Mordaunt, who died in 1562, has the effigies of himself and his lady. He is represented in armour with a robe. She is in a robe with puckered sleeves, and has the angular head dress, which was worn in the reign of Henry VIII. The monument of Henry, the second Lord Mordaunt, is in the north chancel, and has his effigies, in armour, between those of his two wives, under an open canopy supported by columns of the Doric order. In the same chancel is a plain altar-tomb to the memory of Lewis, the third Lord Mordaunt. Charles, earl of Peterborough, who distinguished himself in the reign of George II. both as a soldier and statesman, was buried in the vault under this chancel, without any memorial. The monuments above-mentioned, have been all engraved for the history of the house of Mordaunt, a very rare work, one of the few copies of which is in the college of arms. Over the altar at Turvey is a picture of our Saviour and his disciples on the road to Emmaus, given to the parish by the present rector. Upon the sale of Lord Peterborough's estates, the late Mr. Fuller purchased a moiety of the great tithes, which had been appropriated to the foreign priory of St. Neot's², and afterwards to that of Newenham. It is now the property of his daughters, who are patronesses of the rectory. The other moiety belongs to the rector. The parish has been inclosed by an Act of Parliament, passed in 1783: the lands were not exonerated from tithes.

WARDEN, in the hundred of Wixamtree and deanery of Shefford, lies about three miles west of Biggleswade, and about nine from Bedford. It had, formerly, a market on Tuesdays, granted in 1218, to Henry de Braybroke, one of the king's justices itinerant, together with a fair at the festival of St. Peter and St. Paul³. The

¹ Esch. Car. I. ² Placit. &c. de Terris in Com. Bed. in Turr. Lond. ³ Fin. Rot. 2 Hen. III.

market was confirmed in 1307, to John de Bocles, together with a fair on the festival of St. Leonard ^b.

At this place was a monastery, called the Abbey of Warden, or *De Sartis*, founded in 1135 by Walter D'Espeç, for Cistercian monks from Rievaulx, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary^c. In the year 1217 Fulk de Brent, a powerful baron, whose enormous outrages seem to have rendered him the terror of the country, treated the monks of this convent with much cruelty, on account of a dispute about a wood, and carried thirty of them prisoners to Bedford Castle. Yet such was the ascendancy of the church at that period, that he who set the civil power at defiance, was glad to make his peace by submitting to receive manual discipline from the monks in the chapter-house at Warden, at the same time confirming to them the wood about which the dispute had arisen, and promising them his protection ever after^d. The revenues of Warden Abbey, at the time of its suppression, were estimated at 389l. 16s. 6½d. clear yearly value^e. The small remains which are to be seen of the conventual buildings are of brick, of no great antiquity. A considerable part of what is represented in Buck's View, was pulled down about the year 1790. The site of Warden Abbey, now the property of Mr. Whitbread, is nearly two miles from the parish church. In 1669, it was a seat of Sir Ralph Bovey^f.

The manor of Warden belonged, in 1250, to Adeliza Wake^g, afterwards to the St. Amands, who, in 1343, gave a moiety of it to the abbot and convent, in exchange for lands in Milbrook^h. The manor, which was of late years in the Palmers of Warwickshire, is now the property of Samuel Whitbread esq. M.P. whose father purchased it of Mr. Charles Palmer, in 1773. The estate is tithe-free.

Lord Ongley has a seat in this parish. His father was created an Irish peer in 1776, by the title of Lord Ongley, of Old Warden. The late Lord Ongley's name was Henley. He took the name of Ongley as heir of Samuel Ongley, of Warden, the first of the family who settled at this place, about the year 1690. He was a merchant in London, one of the directors of the East-India Company, and the first deputy-governor of the South-Sea Company. He served the office of sheriff for the county in 1703, and was afterwards knighted.

In the window of the parish church is the figure of an abbot of Warden. The only monument of any note is that of Sir Samuel Ongley, who died in 1726, with a statue of the deceased in a Roman dress. In the church-yard is the mausoleum of the late Lord Ongley, erected by his widow. Mr. Whitbread is patron of the vicarage, which is consolidated with Southill.

^b Cart. 1 Edw. II.

^c Tanner.

^d Chron. Dunst.

^e Tanner.

^f List of Sheriffs.

^g Chron. Dunst.

^h Pat. Edw. III.

WESTON-ING, in the hundred of Manshead and deanery of Flitt, lies about four miles from Ampthill, on the road to Toddington. It had formerly a market on Monday, granted in 1304, by King Edward I. with an annual fair on the festival of the translation of St. Thomas the Martyrⁱ. It was anciently, by the name of Weston-Tregoz, the property of the Clares, earls of Gloucester^k. Early in the fourteenth century, it was purchased of Juliana de Sandwich, daughter and heir of Matilda de Averanches (who married Hamon Crevequer, a Kentish baron,) by William Inge^l, the same, it is supposed, who was appointed Chief Justice of the King's-Bench in 1317. From him this place acquired the name of Weston-Inge, which it still retains. After the death of William Inge, son, it is probable, of the Chief Justice, in 1370, this manor devolved on William Lord Zouche, who had married his grand-daughter^m. In 1542, George Zouche surrendered the manor to the crownⁿ. Queen Mary gave it to her god-daughter, Mary Curzon, who was one of her maids of honour. She married Sir George Fermor, ancestor of the Earl of Pomfret^o. It is now the property of Sir John Everitt, whose father purchased it of the Pomfret family in 1767. Worth-End and part of Tingrith belong to this manor. The church was given by Gilbert Clare, earl of Gloucester, to the knights-templars^p, and afterwards belonged to the abbess and convent of Elstow, to whom the great tithes were appropriated. They are now vested in Francis Penyston esq. by inheritance from the Astreys. Sir John Everitt is patron of the vicarage

WHIPSNAD, in the hundred of Manshead, lies about four miles nearly south of Dunstable, on the borders of Hertfordshire. The principal manor, now the property of William Beckford esq. appears to have passed with Eaton-Bray. Another manor is claimed by the representatives of the late Thomas Vaux esq. The rectory, which is in the deanery of Dunstable, is in the gift of the crown. Shortgrave is partly in this parish, and partly in Studham. In 1798, Mr. Beckford procured an Act of Parliament for inclosing certain woods and grounds, containing 232 acres, when a rent-charge of 30*l.* per annum was secured to be paid to the parish in aid of the poor rate.

WILDEN, in the hundred of Barford and deanery of Eaton, lies about five miles north-east of Bedford. The manor was anciently in the Pabenhams, who continued to possess it for a considerable time^r. The Dukes of Bedford died seized of it in 1473^s. It was afterwards for many years in the Gostwicks, of whom it was

ⁱ Cart. 32 Edw. I. ^k Dugdale's Baronage. ^l Harl. MSS. Brit. Mus. 6073. ^m Dugdale.

ⁿ Records in the Augmentation Office. ^o Collins's Peerage.

^p Dugdale's Baronage.

^r Esch. Hen. III.—Ed. III. ^s Esch. Ed. IV..

purchased by Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough. It is now the property of the Duke of Bedford, whose grandfather purchased it of the Marlborough family. Mr. Wagstaffe has a small manor in this parish, called Sextons, which has been for a considerable time in his family. The Duke of Bedford is patron of the rectory. Francis Dillingham, one of the translators of the Bible, was rector of this parish.

WILHAMSTED, in the hundred of Bedbornstoke, lies about four miles south of Bedford. The manor was granted to John de Grey in 1483. John Warner, M. D. died seised of it in 1565^s, when it was inherited by his nephew, Thomas Norwood. It is now the property of the Right Hon. Lord Carteret. A manor in this parish was given to Elstow abbey, in 1078^t. This is supposed to be the manor of Maid-Berry, in Wilhamsted and Elstow, of which Richard Fitzhugh died seised in 1557^u.

The great tithes were appropriated to Elstow abbey: the vicar has now one-third, and the remainder is divided between two lay impropriators. Lord Carteret is patron of the vicarage, in consequence of an exchange with Sidney-Suffex College, Cambridge. Wilhamsted is in the deanery of Bedford.

WILLINGTON, in the hundred of Wixamtree, lies nearly five miles east of Bedford, near the road to St. Neot's. It was parcel of the barony of Bedford, and descended by a co-heiress of the Beauchamps, to the Mowbrays, earls and dukes of Norfolk, who, as Leland informs us, had an old manor-place there, where they sometimes "lay for a starte"^s. From the Mowbrays it passed by inheritance, to John Howard, duke of Norfolk, who fell at Bosworth-field. On his attainder, it was granted, in 1485, to John, Earl of Oxford: but it is probable, that it was soon after restored to the Howards; for Leland, who visited this county not long afterwards, says, "Mr. Gostewik beyng borne in Willingtoun, bouthe this lordship of the Duke of Northfolk, now lyving, and hath made a sumptuous new building of brike and tymbre *a fundamentis*, in it, with a conduct of water derivid in leade pipes."

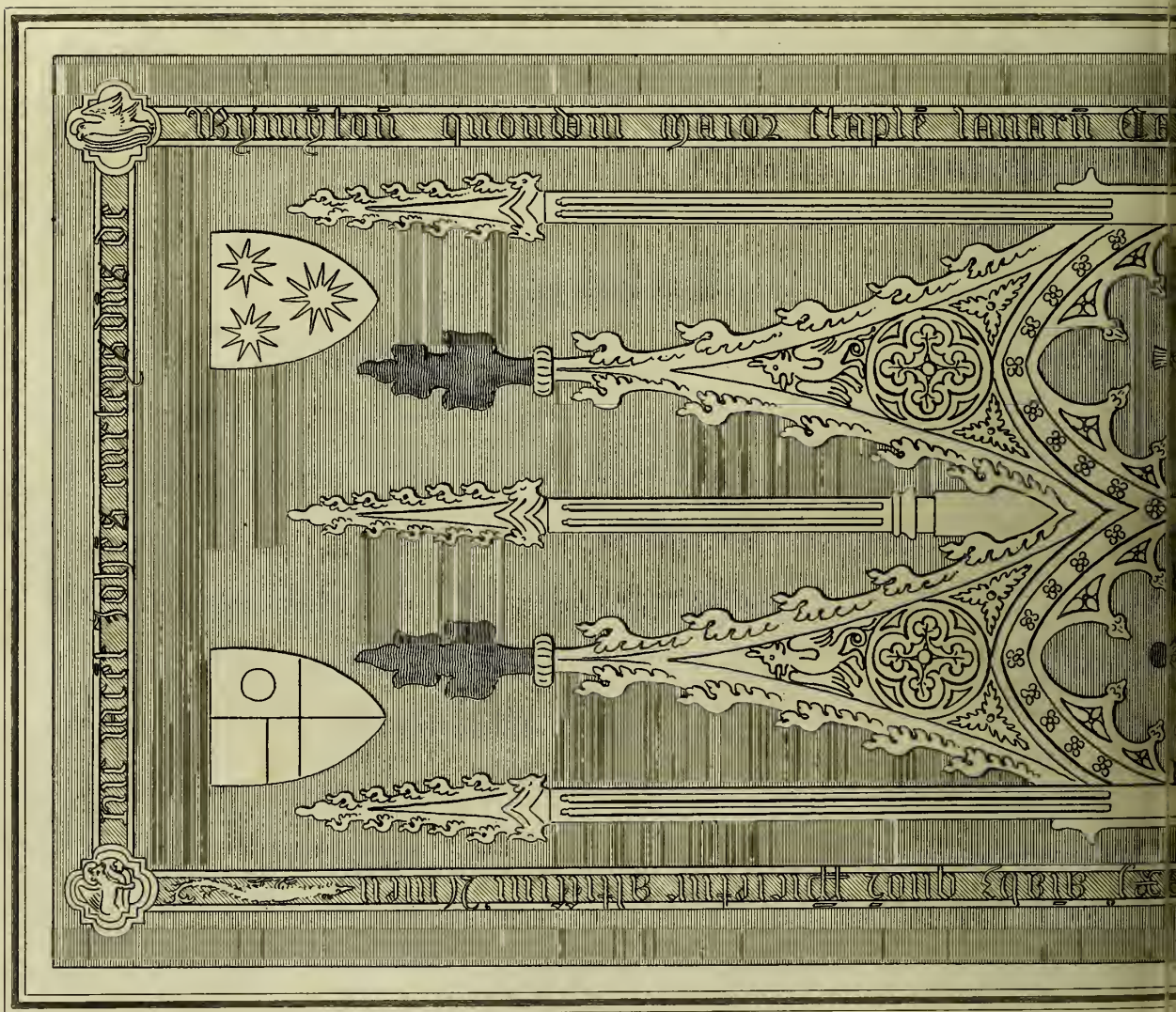
An Act of Parliament passed in 1541, to secure the manor of Willington to Mr. Gostwick, who was son of Sir John Gostwick, Master of the Horse to King Henry VIII. William Gostwick, of Willington, was created a baronet in 1612; his descendant Sir William Gostwick, represented the county of Bedford in Parliament, during a great part of the reigns of King William and Queen Anne. Having impoverished his estate by frequent election-contests, this manor, among others, was sold in 1731,

^s Esch. Eliz.

^t Kennet's Parochial Antiquities, p. 62.

^u Esch. Ph. and Mar.

^w Itin. vol. i.



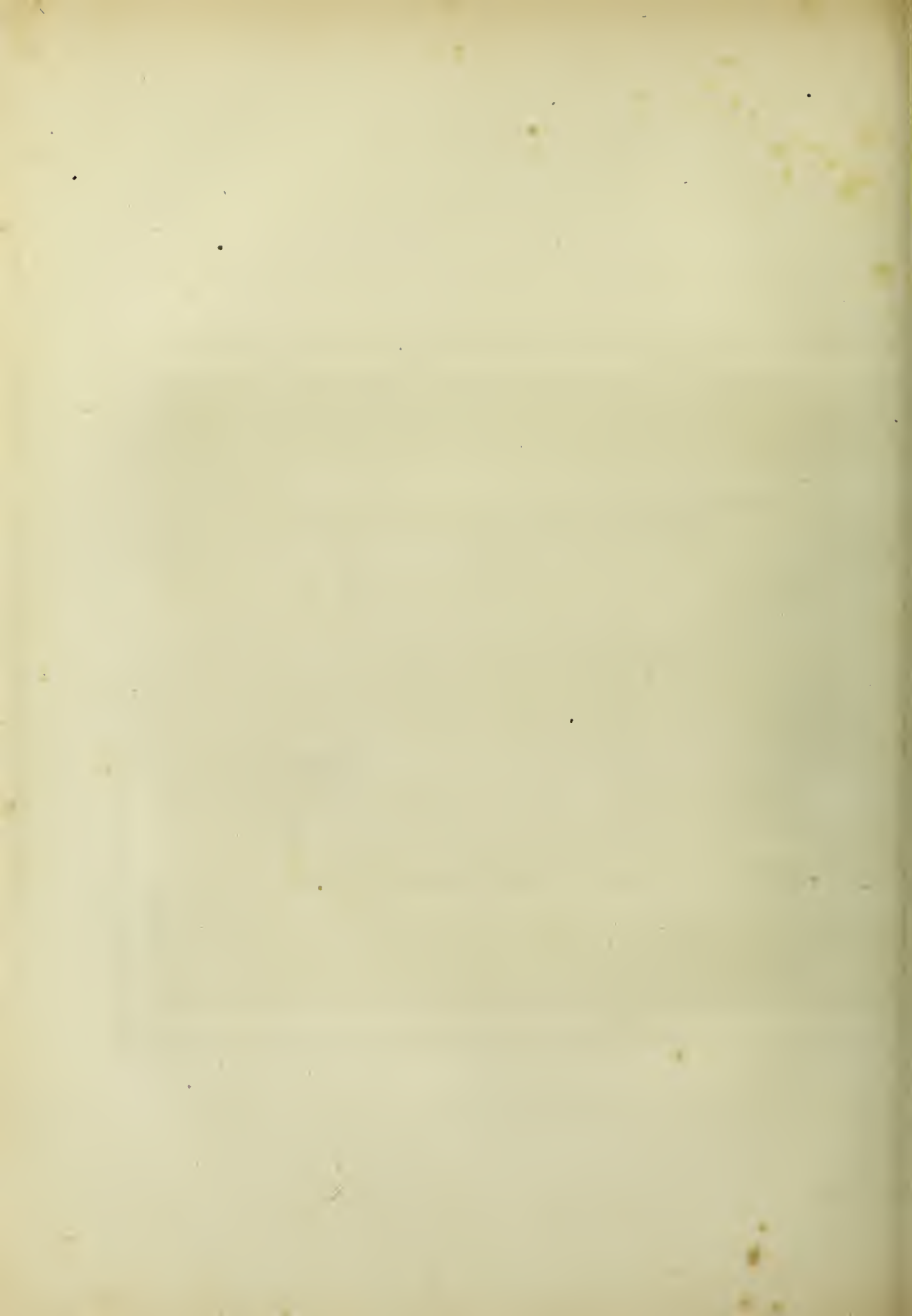
J. Lyons del.

TOMB OF JOHN CURTEYS AND ALBRECHT



See sculp.

HIS WIFE IN WIMINGTON CHURCH.





W. Woodcut

SOUTH-EAST VIEW OF WINTON CHURCH, BEDFORDSHIRE.

to Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough. It is now the property of the Duke of Bedford, whose grandfather purchased it of the Marlborough family, in 1774.

In the parish church, which is a handsome Gothic structure, are several monuments of the family of Gostwick: the earliest is a brass plate, in memory of Robert Gostwick esq. who died in 1315*. The monument of Sir John Gostwick, Master of the Horse to King Henry VIII. was put up in 1541, by his son, soon after his purchase of the manor. The arms on Sir John's monument differ from others of the Gostwick family; having, on the chief, three horses' heads couped, in allusion to his office, instead of three mullets. The monument of Sir William Gostwick, the first baronet, who died in the year 1615, has his effigies in alabaster, in armour. That of Sir Edward Gostwick, who died in 1632, is a mural monument, with the effigies of himself and his lady, in kneeling attitudes. The title is extinct. The great tithes of Willington, which is in the deanery of Bedford, were appropriated to the priory of Newenham. They are now the property of the Duke of Bedford, who is patron of the vicarage.

WIMINGTON, in the hundred of Willey and deanery of Clopham, lies on the borders of Northamptonshire, about three miles from Higham-Ferrers. The manor continued, for some time, in the descendants of Alured de Lincoln, who held it when the survey of doomsday was taken^y. In 1222 it belonged to Peter de Suevia. Soon afterwards it reverted to the Crown, and was granted to Robert de la Bruere. About the year 1260, it passed from the family of Welton to that of Nowers, by marriage. Hugh Curteys purchased it about the year 1351. About 1397 it seems to have been conveyed by his representatives to the baronial family of Bromflete. In 1555 it was the property of Henry, Earl of Derby, whose wife, Lady Margaret Clifford, was a lineal descendant of one of the co-heiresses of Henry Lord Bromflete. In 1621 this manor was in the family of Bletfoe, from whose representatives it passed in 1708, to John Sawyer. In 1713 it became the property of Major General Livesey, and is now, in severalties, amongst his representatives.

The parish church, a very elegant Gothic structure, was built by John Curteys, lord of the manor, and mayor of the Staple at Calais, who died in 1391, as appears by the inscription on his tomb. The brasses of himself and his wife Albreda, are remarkably well preserved. They are on a slab of black marble, under Gothic canopies. In the chancel are brasses, of Sir Thomas Bromflete, cup-bearer to King Henry V. who died in 1430, and his wife Margaret, daughter of

* The family of Gostwick was settled at Willington as early as the year 1209, as appears by some Bedfordshire Pedigrees in the British Museum. ^y Cooper's History of Wimington; in the Bibl. Top. Brit. from whence the subsequent dates are taken.

Sir Edward St. John, and heirs of the Lord de Vesci, who died in 1407. The Rev. Wm. Bromwich was, in Feb. 1803, patron of the rectory; the advowson was then on sale.

WOBURN, in the hundred of Manshead and deanery of Flitt, is a market town situated on the great road to Manchester and Leeds, 42 miles from London. The market, which is held on Fridays, was granted, in 1242, to the abbot of Woburn^a. There are four annual fairs; January 1, March 23, July 13, and September 25. The town of Woburn suffered severely by fire in the year 1595^a, and in 1724^b; the last time about 50 houses were consumed. The number of houses in Woburn parish, according to the return made to Parliament in 1801, pursuant to the Population Act, was 277; the number of inhabitants 1563. Queen Elizabeth visited Woburn in 1572^c. King Charles I. halted at this town the 26th of August 1645, on his route from Wales to Oxford, and slept at the house of the Earl of Bedford^d, who was then in the service of the Parliament.

Hugh de Bolebec, in 1145, founded an abbey of Cistercian monks at Woburn^e. In 1234, this monastery was so poor that the establishment was for a time broken up, and the monks dispersed into different convents till their debts were discharged^f. By various benefactions their revenues were so much improved, that, at the general dissolution of monasteries in the reign of Henry VIII. they were estimated at 391l. 18s. 2d. clear yearly value^g. The last abbot was hanged at Woburn for denying the king's supremacy. The site of the abbey was granted, in 1547, to John Lord Russel, afterwards Earl of Bedford, and has been ever since the chief seat of that noble family. There are no remains of the conventual buildings.

Woburn house, a magnificent mansion occupying four sides of a quadrangle, was almost wholly rebuilt by Flitcroft, for John Duke of Bedford, about the middle of the last century. The state apartments are fitted up in that style of costly magnificence which then prevailed. The gallery exhibits a large and most interesting collection of portraits, among which are to be seen those of many illustrious characters of the house of Russel, and other families allied to them by marriage. Some curious portraits also are dispersed in other rooms; among the most remarkable are those of Philip of Spain and Queen Mary, by Sir Antonio More. A *catalogue raisonné* of the pictures at Woburn was drawn up by the late Earl of

^a Cart. 26 Henry III.

^a A pamphlet was published on the subject bearing that date.

^b Historical Register.

^c Queen Elizabeth's Progresses.

^d Symonds's MSS. in the British

Museum. ^e Tanner.

^f Chron. Dunst.

^g Tanner.

Orford, at the Duke of Bedford's request, not long before his death. Among the portraits lately added, is a fine picture of Thomas Kelleghrew, the celebrated wit in Charles the Second's reign. The collection of pictures by the old masters is large and valuable. Several of those described by Pennant have been exchanged for others. Among the more recent additions (by the late Duke) are a choice cabinet collection, in a small room at the end of the library, fitted up in the Etruscan style. It consists of some very valuable pictures by Cuyp, Teniers, Berghem, and Rubens, and a celebrated cattle piece by Paul Potter. The library (57 feet by 24) was fitted up by the late Duke. Over the book cases are portraits of artists; Titian, Rembrandt, Rubens, Tintoret, Teniers, and Kneller, by themselves; the others principally by Vandyke. The great stables, mentioned by Pennant as part of the cloisters of the abbey, were pulled down by the late Duke, and their site is occupied by a suite of rooms. The present stables form the wings of a very handsome building, the centre of which is occupied by the tennis court and riding house. The former is 108 feet in length; the riding-house, including a gallery at the end for spectators, 130. A colonnade, a quarter of a mile in length, leads from the Duke's private apartments to the stables, tennis court, and other buildings.

Large sums have been expended in altering the level of the ground near the house, which stands about the centre of an extensive park. Numerous plantations were made, both in the park, and on the neighbouring hills, by the Duke's grandfather; others have been more recently laid out, to the great improvement of the scenery; but its character is more that of grandeur, than of picturesque beauty.

The late Duke's favourite pursuits are well known to have been experimental agriculture and the breeding of cattle. For this purpose he kept several farms in his own hands. The principal farm-yard is in the park, about half a mile from the house. The buildings of every kind, for the uses of the farm, are upon the most extensive scale, and abound with every convenience that could be devised; one of the most remarkable is the room constructed for shewing the sheep at the annual shearing, which has been kept for several years past with great hospitality. The present Duke follows the steps of his late brother in patronizing agricultural improvement, and keeps up all the establishments which he formed with a view to that purpose. On the farm at Woburn is a mill for malting, threshing, winnowing, &c. and other conveniences for the abridging and expediting of labour, most of which were constructed under the direction of Mr. Salmon, the Duke's clerk of the works, the ingenious inventor of several useful improvements in agricultural implements.

The manor of Woburn was given to the abbey by the founder^b, and was granted to the Duke of Bedford's ancestor, together with the conventual site.

The manor of Birchmore, in this parish, belonged to Woburn abbey, and, after the reformation, was, for a considerable time in the family of Stanton, from whom it passed, by a female heir, to the Pickerings. It is now the property of the Duke of Bedford, whose grandfather purchased it of Sir Edward Pickering bart. in 1747.

It appears by the *Liber Regis* that Birchmore had formerly a church, to which the chapel of Woburn, called, in most records, Old Woburn, was annexed. In a survey of the parish, made by Sir Jonas Moore in 1661, a garden, about 200 yards west of Birchmore house, is called the church-yard. This sufficiently denotes the site of the old church. - Woburn chapel, now the parish church, was given to the abbot and convent in 1242. The great tithes, by the name of the rectory of Birchmore, were appropriated to the monastery in 1308^k. They are now the property of the Duke of Bedford. The benefice is a donative in his Grace's patronage.

In the chancel of the parish church is the monument of Sir Francis Stanton, sheriff of the county, who died in 1635. His son Edward was an eminent divine among the Puritans. In the south aisle is the tomb of John Morton, son of John Morton, lord of the manor of Lovels-bury, in Potefgrave, who died in 1394. The tower stands detached from the rest of the building, at the north-west corner. The church was undergoing a thorough repair, which it seemed much to need, in the month of August 1800.

Adjoining the church-yard is a free school, founded by Francis Earl of Bedford, who died in 1582. Francis Lord Russell, in 1622, gave a salary of 10*l.* *per annum* to the master, which has been since increased to 35*l.* A copy of the statutes is in the Duke of Bedford's muniment room in London.

There is an alms-house in this parish for 12 poor persons, founded by the Bedford family. It is endowed with 30*l.* *per annum*, and the endowment was confirmed by an act of Parliament in 1761.

WOOTTON, in the hundred of Redbornstoke, is a very pleasant village, lying about 5 miles south-west of Bedford. The manor belonged to the Beauchamps, barons of Bedford, and descended by female heirs to the Botetorts, Latimers, and Nevilles^l. John Neville, Lord Latimer, died seized of it in 1543^m. Early in the 17th cen-

^b Dugdale's Monasticon.

ⁱ Duke of Bedford's Records.

^k See Tanner.

^l See Cardington.

^m Esch. Henry VIII.

tury, it became the property of the Monoux family. Humphrey Monoux, of Wootton, was created a baronet in 1660. It is now the property of his descendant, Sir Philip Monoux bart. who resides at Sandy. The manor house at Wootton is, or was lately, in the occupation of Col. Lake. The manor of Hoe, in this parish, was formerly in the Archer family ⁿ, afterwards in the Botelers, and is now the property of Admiral Cornish, whose uncle, Sir Samuel Cornish, bought it, about the year 1765, of Sir Philip Boteler bart. The manor of Pillinge, in Wootton, or Wootton Pillinge, was part of Lord Fanhope's property ^o, and was afterwards in the family of Long ^p. Sir Francis Clerke, who died seised of it in 1632, bequeathed it to Sidney Suffex College, in Cambridge ^q. Richard Burgoyne esq. who died in 1464, was seised of a manor called Bosoms, in this parish ^r.

In the parish church are several tombs of the Monoux family, among which are those of all the baronets, and of Lieut. Monoux, who was slain in the action with the Duke of Monmouth's army in 1685; he was buried at Chard in Somersetshire, and his body afterwards removed hither. Wootton lies in the deanery of Bedford. The great tithes, which were appropriated to the priory of Newenham, are now the property of Sir Philip Monoux, who is patron of the vicarage.

WRESTLINGWORTH, in the hundred of Biggleswade and deanery of Shefford, lies on the borders of Cambridgeshire, about three miles from Potton, and about five from Biggleswade. King Henry III. in 1218, gave the manor to Isabella de Dover, till such time as he should please to restore it to the heirs of Reginald Damartin, Earl of Boulogne, whose property it had been, promising in that case to give her a pension in lieu of it ^s. After this it was successively in the families of Huntercombe ^t and Raghton; from the latter it passed by a female heir to the Asplions ^u. In 1475, it was granted to Anthony Lord Grey, of Ruthin ^x; in 1485, to Margaret Countess of Richmond ^y, who settled it on Thomas Earl of Derby. Of late years it was in the family of Downing, and is now the property of Jacob Whittington esq. An estate in Wrestlingworth, which belonged also to the Downings, forms part of the endowment of the college, which is to be built in Cambridge, pursuant to the will of Sir Jacob Downing. The rectory of Wrestlingworth is in the gift of the crown. The parish has been inclosed by an act of Parliament, passed in 1801, when allotments of land were assigned to the rector, and to the rector of Cockayne Hatley, Thomas Ryder, esq. and others who had portions of tithes in Wrestlingworth; under the same act, part of Hartley field was allotted

ⁿ Esch. Edw. IV.

^o Esch. Hen. VI.

^p Esch. Hen. VIII. and Eliz.

^q See his will.

^r Esch. Edw. IV.

^s C. 11 Henry III.

^t Esch. Edw. III.

^u Esch. Hen. V. and VI.

^x Pat. 14 Edw. IV.

^y Rot. Parl. vol. vi.

and added to the parish of Wrestlingworth, which was computed to contain about 1860 acres.

YIELDEN, in the hundred of Stodden and deanery of Eaton, lies on the borders of Northamptonshire, about 14 miles from Bedford. It was anciently called Ivelden, or Givelden, and was the seat and property of the barons Traylly, who possessed this and other manors in the county when the survey of Doomsday was taken. They were not summoned to Parliament after the reign of King John^z, but their descendants in the male line continued in possession of this manor till the year 1360, or later. The castle of Yielden is represented in the inquisition of that date, as having fallen entirely to decay^a. Its site is called the Castle-field, where the present appearance of the earth-works shews it to have been a place of great strength. What became of the manor of Yielden does not appear on record. It is not improbable that it formed part of the endowment of Northill college, founded by the executors of Sir John Traylly, the last heir male of the family. It is certain that it was, at a subsequent period, for a considerable time, in the family of St. John. It is now the property of John Crawley esq. of Stockwood, near Luton, one of the representatives of Sir Jeremy Vanacker Sambroke, whose family purchased it of the Earl of Bolingbroke in 1706. The advowson of the rectory was given by Geoffrey Traylly, in the reign of Henry I. to the monks of Thorney^b. It was afterwards in the St. John family, and was sold by the Earl of Bolingbroke, in 1706, to the then bishop of Peterborough, of whose son, Robert Clavering esq. it was purchased by the Rev. Edward Bunting, the present patron and incumbent.

John Pocklington, rector of Yielden, was author of a sermon, entitled, "Sunday no Sabbath," preached at the bishop of Lincoln's visitation at Ampthill, in 1635^c. It gave such offence to the puritans, that, in the year 1640, an order of Parliament was issued, condemning it to be burnt by the hands of the common hangman in London and in the two Universities.

^z Dugdale.

^a Esch. 34 Edw. III.

^b Dugdale's Baronage, vol. i.

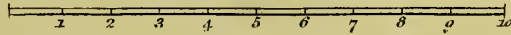
^c Ant. Wood;

B E R K S H I R E.



BERKSHIRE.

Scale of Miles.



19. The Remains of Ancient British and Roman Roads, are distinguished by blue lines.



1° Longitude West from Greenwich.

S.L. Neale, sculp. & J. Sturt

Published Jan^y 1st 1800 by TH. Cadell & W^m Davies.

B E R K S H I R E.

INTRODUCTION.

ETYMOLOGY.

ASSER MENEVENSIS, an ancient English historian, informs us, that this county derives its name from a wood, called *Barroc*; he adds, that it abounded in box, but it does not appear that this circumstance had any connection with the name. *Barroc* wood is mentioned among the property of the nuns of Ambresbury, in a charter of King John^a; and it is probable, that it was somewhere on or near the Downs, between Wantage and Lamborn, as the other estates, which are mentioned in the same charter, are situated in that neighbourhood.

Ancient Inhabitants and Government.

CAMDEN mentions Berkshire as the seat of the Attrebatii or Attrebates. It is universally allowed, that the greater part of the county was anciently inhabited by that people, who are supposed to have been a colony of the Attrebates, in Gaul; but it is the opinion of most antiquaries of the present day, particularly of the learned Mr. Whitaker^b, that the south-eastern part of Berkshire, where is now the hundred of Bray, was inhabited by a people called the Bibroci, and a small portion of it, bordering on Hampshire, by the Segontiaci. During the early part of the Roman government, Berkshire formed a part of *Britannia Superior*; but afterwards, when the kingdom was subdivided, it was included in the district of *Britannia Prima*. During the Saxon Heptarchy, this county belonged to the kingdom of the West Saxons; and after the whole of Britain became united into one monarchy, it was comprised within the district, called *West-Saxon-Læge*.

^a Dugdale's Monasticon, I. 192.

^b See his History of Manchester, I. 92, 93.

Historical Events.

THE earliest mention of any historical fact connected with this county is in the reign of Offa, king of the Mercians, which commenced in the year 758. The Chronicle of Abingdon^c informs us, that Offa, having conquered Kinewulf, king of the West Saxons, seized on all the country, from the town of Wallingford to Ashbury, which lay between the Ickeneld Street and the Thames.

In the year 871 the Danes, having made an irruption into Wesssex, were defeated at Englefield in this county, by Earl Athelwolf^d. After this battle they retreated to Reading, where they entrenched themselves; and, in a sally from that place, made a successful attack upon the army of King Ethelred: this skirmish proved fatal to the brave Athelwolf^e. A few days afterwards was fought the famous battle of Ashdown, in which Ethelred, assisted by Alfred, his brother and illustrious successor, defeated the Danes, killed their king Bacseg, or Basregh, and drove them back to Reading^f.

Antiquaries have differed much in opinion concerning the site of this battle. Bishop Gibson, in his edition of the Saxon Chronicle, says, that some have supposed the *Æscfeldune* of that Chronicle to have been Ashenden, in Buckinghamshire; an opinion which certainly has nothing to support it but similarity of name. The learned prelate himself supposed it to have been at Aston,* a village in Berkshire, about five miles south-west of Wallingford: he rests his opinion upon another passage in the same Chronicle, which says, that in 1016 the Danes went from Wallingford, by way of *Æscfeldune*, to *Cwicchelmflawe*, because Aston lies nearly in a line from Wallingford to Cuckhamley Hill, called by the common people *Cuchinflow*, or *Scuchinflow*, and supposed to be the ancient *Cwicchelmflawe*. Mr. Wise, supposing the large entrenchment on the Downs above Uffington, and another at some distance below, towards the west, to be the *editior locus & inferior locus* of Asfer, who has described this battle more minutely than any other historian, is of opinion, that the site of this action was on the Downs, near Ashbury, where Lord Craven has a seat, now called Ashdown Park; and that the figure of the White Horse, near Uffington, was a memorial of the victory. He confesses, that the passage which induced bishop Gibson to suppose Aston to be the *Æscfeldune* of the Saxon Chronicle, bears hard upon his hypothesis; but to get rid of the difficulty, he suggests, that the passage might have been erroneously transcribed, and that the true reading, perhaps, was, that the Danes went by way of *Cwicchelmflawe* to *Æscfeldune*.

^c In the British Museum, Cotton MSS. Claudius B. VI.

^d Saxon Chron.

^e Ibid.

^f Asfer's Account of this battle may be seen in Gale's Hist. Ang. Scrip. III. 163, 164, and that of Simon Dunelmensis in the Decem Scriptores I. 125, 126.

Most modern writers have subscribed to the opinion of Mr. Wise; but there are strong reasons for supposing, that this battle was not fought at either of the places already mentioned. In the survey of Domesday, Aston is written *Estone*, its etymology being in common with many places of the same name, the East town: Ashbury is the *Eisseberie* of the survey, which lay within the ancient hundred of *Hilleflau*. The Ashdown (*Affedone*) of the survey was in the hundred of Nachededorne, which corresponds with the modern hundred of Compton. This place sufficiently agrees, both as to its name^c and situation, with the little that is to be gathered from our historians, respecting the site of this action.

The *Affedone* of the survey seems to have been in or near the parish of Ashampstead, and to have included the manor of that place, of which no mention is there made. At a later period, the manors of Ashampstead and *Affedone*, or, as it is called in records of a more modern date, *Ashdown*, appear to have been uniformly held by the same proprietors, and seem to be described as adjoining estates. They may be traced down through the families of De la Beche and Langford, as late as the reign of King Henry VIII^h. Any subsequent notice of the manor of Ashdown (which was held of the honour of Tutbury) has been sought for in vain: the name seems to have been lost; but it is evident, that its site must be in the hundred of Compton, and in or adjoining to the parish of Ashampstead; and here, it is presumed, that the site of the battle of Ashdown must be looked for. The expressions of *editior locus* and *inferior locus*, to which Mr. Wise attaches so much consequence, supposing that they referred to the strong posts in the neighbourhood of the White Horse, seem to import nothing more than the upper and the lower ground, and may apply to any spot in a hilly country; nor is there any thing in Asser's description of the battle, which intimates that either party occupied any strong post.

Supposing Cuckhamsley Hill to be the *Cwicchelmflawe* of the Saxon Chronicle, the route from Wallingford, by way of Ashampstead, to that place would, it is true, be somewhat circuitous; and that it was circuitous, the expression of going by way of *Æscesdune* to *Cwicchelmflawe* seems to imply. Ashdown Park lies in an opposite direction. It is not improbable, that *Cwicchelmflawe* was the large tract of land, given by Cenwallus, in the year 648, to Cuthred, the son of Cwicchelm, which land is said, in the Saxon Chronicle, to have been near to *Æscesdune*, and might have been called *Cwicchelmflawe* by Cuthred, in honour of his father.

^c Bromton's manner of spelling the name (Aschedon) approaches very near to that of the survey.

^h Esch. Edw. III. & Hen. VIII. The manor of Ashbury (including Ashdown Park) belonged to the abbot and convent of Glastonbury from a very early period till the dissolution of that monastery.

The Chronicle of Melros mentions another battle at Reading, after that at Ashdownⁱ. The Danes spent the winter of 872 in that town^k.

Camden, and most succeeding antiquaries, have supposed Eddington, near Westbury, in Wiltshire, to have been the Ethandune of the Saxon Chronicle, where Alfred gained a decisive victory over the Danes in 878. Dr. Beke, the learned Professor of Modern History in the University of Oxford, has favoured us with some very ingenious conjectures, which amount almost to proofs, that this battle was fought at Eddington, near Hungerford, in Berkshire. Alfred's intention appears to have been to surprize the Danes with a force, suddenly and unexpectedly collected. Accordingly, the people of Somersetshire, Hampshire, and Wiltshire, having resorted to his standard at *Ecbyrhtestane*, (afterwards called *Brightrichestone*, and now Brixton, in Wiltshire,) he set forward the next morning at day-break, it being then the middle of May, and passed the following night at *Æglea*, or *Iglea*; and, advancing the following day, totally defeated the Danes, and pursued them with his cavalry to their fortified camp. As Eddington, near Westbury, is scarcely ten miles from Brixton, there seems, as Dr. Beke observes, an evident absurdity in supposing that, if so much time had been taken up in moving so short a distance, any surprize could have been intended, or could have been successful, if attempted in so dilatory a manner. He supposes, therefore, that the day before the action, Alfred made a long and forced march of about thirty-five miles over the Downs, with his cavalry, and reached *Æglea*, or *Iglea*, which place he, with great probability, conjectures to have given name to the hundred of *Eglei*^l, in Berkshire, which lies to the north of Eddington, and that the next morning he attacked the Danish army by the road from Shefford.

The learned professor rests his opinion chiefly on these circumstances, that Eddington, near Westbury, was much too near to Brixton; for Alfred passed the night, after a march from day-break in the middle of May, at *Æglea*, short of the scene of action; that the ancient village of *Daneford* (now Denford), and the town of Hungerford (anciently *Ingleford*), are adjoining to Eddington, and the hamlet of Englewood, on the opposite side of the Kennet, at a very short distance; names which seem to imply some considerable battle between the two nations, of which we have otherwise no mention in history; and it is a further corroboration, that the hundred of *Eglei*, which no doubt derived its name from some place not far distant, (though its site is not now known,) adjoined to Eddington on the north. It may be remarked, that the manor of *Ethandune*, which Alfred leaves by will to his wife

ⁱ Gale's Hist. Ang. Scrip. I. 144.

^k Sax. Chron. p. 82.

^l The two ancient hundreds of *Eglei* and *Cheneteberie* are now united into one, by the name of Kentbury Eagle.

Ealhwith, is mentioned with other Berkshire lands; and there is no doubt, that it was the manor of Eddington, near Hungerford, now the property of Sir W. J. James bart.

In 1006 the Danes laid waste this county with fire and sword: they burnt Reading, Wallingford, Cholsey, and a great many villages, having marched by way of *Æsceldune* to *Cwicchelmflawe*, as before mentioned: they returned by another route, and obtained a victory over the Saxons near the river Kennet^m.

The Chronicle of Robert of Gloucester, speaking of these ravages of the Danes, says:—

“ Meft wo hii dude in Borreflyre and up Affedoune,
And fo about Quychelmesley, and fo in many tounce.”

In 1011, Berkshire was under the dominion of king Ethelredⁿ. Swain, king of Denmark, appears to have been at Wallingford in 1012^o.

During the wars between king Stephen and the friends of the empress Maud, the castles of Faringdon^p and Newbury^q were taken by the royal party. Wallingford was one of the strongest garrisons of the empress, and the place of her retreat when she fled from her enemies at Oxford. It was often besieged by Stephen, who built a fort on the opposite side of the river, to attack it with more effect; but it was defended till the termination of the war, by its brave governor Brien Fitz-Count^r. The peace which ensued was made beneath its walls: the neighbouring castle of Brightwell, in this county, and that of Reading, were; by the treaty then made, given up to Henry duke of Normandy^s. During king Richard's absence in Palestine, his brother John came over from Normandy into England, and seized the castles of Wallingford and Windsor. Windsor was soon retaken by the king's friends; and afterwards both castles, pursuant to the articles of a truce, were put into the hands of the Queen Dowager^t. In 1213, two amicable meetings were held in this county, between king John and his barons, the one at Wallingford, in November, and the other in December at Reading^u. In 1216 Wallingford was fortified by the king^w, and Windsor was besieged by the barons^x. In 1263, Windsor Castle was taken by Simon de Montfort^y. In 1389, a temporary reconciliation was effected between king Richard II. and the discontented nobles, at Reading, by the mediation of John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaster^z.

^m Simon Dunelm. inter Decem Scriptores, & Sax. Chron. 135.

ⁿ Sax. Chron. 140.

^o Ibid. 143.

^p Brompton inter Decem Scriptores, l. 1033.

^q Holinshed.

^r See Gervas, inter Decem Scriptores, l. 1361 & 1373.

^s Mat. Paris, 72.

^t Holinshed.

^u M. Paris, 207, 208.

^w Holinshed.

^x M. Paris, 241.

^y Ibid. 851.

^z Holinshed.

During the disastrous civil war in the 17th century, this county was frequently the scene of action between the contending parties. King Charles settled a strong garrison at Wallingford, which continued there as long as the royal party were capable of making any stand, and was not taken till the close of the war, being one of the last garrisons that surrendered. Windsor was garrisoned by the parliament, in October 1642, and continued in their possession the whole of the war. Prince Rupert once made an unsuccessful attack upon it. The unfortunate monarch spent his last Christmas there as a prisoner. Reading was at first garrisoned by the parliament; but its governor, Harry Marten, quitted it on the approach of the king's army, in October 1642^a. The king had then the head-quarters of his horse at Abingdon; and being possessed of Reading, as well as Wallingford, commanded the whole of this county, excepting the neighbourhood of Windsor^b.

In April, 1643, Reading was taken by the parliament, after a siege of ten days^c. In September, 1643, was fought the first battle of Newbury, in which the Earls of Sunderland and Carnarvon, and the accomplished Lord Falkland, lost their lives: both parties claimed the victory^d. The Earl of Essex marched after the action towards Reading, where he halted a few days; he then drew off all his forces from that town, which was again made a garrison for the king, under the command of Sir Jacob Astley^e. When king Charles returned to Oxford, after the battle of Newbury, he left a garrison at Donnington Castle, near that town, which was bravely defended by its governor, Col. Boys, during several sieges; and notwithstanding the castle was nearly demolished, and he had at one time to resist the attack of the whole of Essex's army, he successfully maintained his post to the last^f.

In the spring of 1644, the parliament became masters of all Berkshire, excepting the garrison at Wallingford. The king's army, having been quartered a month at Newbury, marched to Reading; and after a few days halt, dismantled the fortifications, upon which that town was immediately taken possession of by the parliament. The royal army, after quitting Reading, held a rendezvous on the Downs, near Compton, and were quartered, for some days, in Wantage, and the neighbouring villages^g. After this the infantry were ordered to Abingdon, for the purpose of defending that town; but the general quitted it, without attempting any resistance, on the approach of the Earl of Essex, with his army. Abingdon now became a garrison for the parliament under Col. Browne, and proved a very troublesome

^a Clarendon II. 70. 8vo. edit. ^b Ibid: II. 82. ^c Ibid. II. 230. ^d See Clarendon II. 346. 347. and Vicars's Parliamentary Chronicle, 410. 420.

^e See more particulars in the account of the parish of Shaw.

^f Clarendon II. 348.

^g Walker's History, p. 13.

neighbour to Oxford. Some attempts were made by the royalists to regain it, but without success^b. In October, 1644, a second battle was fought near Newbury: the Earl of Essex, in his route to Newbury, where the king was quartered, marched from Basing, through Aldermaston, Padworth, and Bucklebury. This second battle of Newbury, like the first, was not so decisive but that both parties claimed the victoryⁱ. The king, having accomplished his purpose of relieving Donnington Castle, whose brave governor he knighted, marched to Lamborn, and thence, by way of Marlborough, to Hungerford, and from Hungerford, through Faringdon, to Oxford. The Earl of Essex marched his army into winter-quarters at Reading, Abingdon, &c.

In 1645, Sir Stephen Hawkins made an unsuccessful attempt on the parliamentary garrison at Abingdon; and Cromwell, with the same ill success, attacked the king's garrison at Faringdon^k. About the same time he was more successful in a skirmish at Radcot-bridge, in that neighbourhood, and took Sir William Vaughan and Col. Littleton prisoners, with 200 of their troops^l. The only action which happened in Berkshire, in 1646, and the last in that county during the war, was an unsuccessful attack on Abingdon by Prince Rupert, in March^m. In the summer of that year, Wallingford and Faringdon were surrendered to the parliamentⁿ. Sir Thomas Fairfax's head quarters were at Reading, in July, 1647.

A flight skirmish at Reading, in December 1688^o, was the only action, excepting a more trifling affair at Twyford in this county^p, which took place previously to the happy revolution, which seated the Prince of Orange on the throne of these realms.

Ancient and modern Division of Berkshire.

WHEN the survey of Domesday was taken, this county was divided into 22 hundreds. Wallingford and Windsor were assessed separately. The hundreds were,

Benes, or Beners, now Barnesh;
 Blitberie (Blewbury);
 Borcheldeberie, or Borcheldeberie (Bucklebury);
 Bray, still retaining that name;
 Cerledone, now Charlton;
 Cheneteberie } now united by the name of Kentbury-Eagle;
 Eglei }
 Eletesford, Helitesford, or Heflitesford;
 Gamesfel, now Ganfield;

^b See Clarendon II. 484, 485, 487, 554. Heath's Chron. 57, 75, 76.

ⁱ See more particulars under the account of Newbury.

^k Clarendon II. 546, 550, 553, &c.

Heath 65, 66, 75, 97.

^l Heath 75.

^m Perfect Occurrences, March 1646.

ⁿ Heath 107, 109.

^o See Kennet's History.

^p Magna Britannia—Berkshire.

Hilleflau ;
 Hornimere, now Horner ;
 Lamborne, or Lambourn, still retaining the same name ;
 Merceham (Marcham) ;
 Nachededorne ;
 Radinges, or Redinges (Reading) ;
 Riplesmere, still retaining the same name ;
 Roeberg ;
 Seriveham, or Shrivenham, still retaining the latter name ;
 Sudtone (Sutton) ;
 Tacceham, or Thatcham ;
 Wanating, or Wanting (Wantage), still retaining that name ;
 Wifol.

The present number of hundreds is only twenty ; of these, eleven retain their ancient names. The modern hundreds are, Compton, Cookham, Faircross, Faringdon, Morton, Ock, otherwise Oke, Sunning, Theale, and Wargrave. The parishes which were in Blitberie, or Blewbury hundred, are now included in that of Moreton, excepting Blewbury itself, which is in Reading. The parishes which were in the hundred of Borchedeberie (Bucklebury), are now in Faircross and Reading. Those which were in the hundred of Eletesford, are now in Moreton ; excepting Cholfey, which is in that of Reading. Those which were in the hundred of Hilleflau, are now added to Shrivenham. The parishes which were in the hundred of Merceham, or Marcham, are now in the hundred of Ock, excepting Beffils-Legh, which is in that of Horner. Most of the parishes which were in the hundred of Nachededorne, are now in that of Compton ; the others in Faircross. Those which were in the hundred of Roeberg, are now in Faircross. Those which were in the hundred of Sudtone, are now in Ock, excepting West Hendred, which is in Wanting, and Stanford, which is in Ganfield. Those which were in the hundred of Thatcham, are now in Faircross and Reading. Those which were in the hundred of Wifol, are now in that of Faringdon, excepting Buscot, which is in Shrivenham. The modern hundred of Sonning, or Sunning, was formerly included in the hundred of Cerledone, now Charlton ; that of Wargrave was included in Charlton and Ripplemere ; that of Cookham, in Eletesford. The modern hundred of Theale, appears to have been taken out of Reading, which was formerly very extensive.

A few parishes appear to have been removed out of one hundred into another. Remenham, which was anciently in Beners, is now in Charlton. Swallowfield which was in Charlton, is now in Reading.

The hundreds of Barnesh, or Beynhurst, Bray, Cookham, and Ripplemere, are in the Crown. The hundreds of Faircross and Kentbury-Eagle are held on lease

lease under the Crown by the Earl of Craven, the hundreds of Ock and Moreton by Mrs. Sarah Hucks. Alexander Cobham esq. is lord of the hundred of Charlton. Richard Pottinger esq. of Compton; William Hallet esq. of Faringdon; Samuel Worthington esq. of Ganfield and Wanting; the Earl of Abingdon, of Hormer, which formerly belonged to the abbot and convent of Abingdon; Richard Benyon esq. of Reading and Theale; the Hon. and Rev. the Lord Bishop of Durham, and others, trustees acting under Lord Barrington's will, of Shrivenham; Richard Palmer esq. of Sunning; and the Right Hon. Lord Braybroke, of Wargrave.

The following is a list of manors mentioned in the Survey of Domesday, with their modern names as far as they could be ascertained.

Abingdon	-	-	Abingdon	Boroardescote	-	-	Buscot
Acenge, in the hundred of Thatcham				Boufore	-	-	Boxford
Aneborne	-	-	Enborne	Bradfelt	-	-	Bradfield
Apleford	-	-	{ Appleford, in Sutton-Courtney	Brai	-	-	Bray
Apletune	-	-	Appleton	Bras*, in the hundred of Beners			
Ardintone	-	-	Ardington	Brintone	-	-	Brimpton
Affedone	-	-	{ Alhdown, in the hundred of Compton	Bristoldestone	-	-	Bright-Walton
Avingtone	-	-	Avington	Bristowelle	-	-	Brightwell
Bagenor	-	-	Bagnor, in Speen	Catmere	-	-	Catmere
Baiorde	-	-	Bayworth, in Sunningwell	Cedeledorde	-	-	Chaddleworth
Baftedene	-	-	Bassildon	Cedeneorde, in the hundred of Eglei			
Bechefgete, in the hundred of Cheneteberie				Celrea	-	-	Childrey
Becote	-	-	Becket, in Shrivenham	Celfeia	-	-	Cholfey
Bedene	-	-	Beeton	Cerletone	-	-	Charlton, in Wantage
Bedretone	-	-	Betterton, near Lockinge	Cernei	-	-	Charney, in Longworth
Beneham	-	-	Beenham	Cevesslau	-	-	Challow
Berceham	-	-	Barkham	Cheneteberie	-	-	Kentbury
Bertune	-	-	Barton, in Abingdon	Chenitune	-	-	{ Kennington, in Radley and Sunningwell
Bifteham	-	-	Bisham	Cherfwelle	-	-	Carfwell
Blitberie	-	-	Blewbury	Chingestune	-	-	Kingston-Bagpuze
Bocheland	-	-	Buckland	Cilletone, or Ciltone	-	-	Chilton
Bochentone	-	-	{ Bockington, in Lambourn	Civelei	-	-	Cheveley
Bochefore, in the hundred of Cheneteberie				Clevore	-	-	Clewer
Borcheldeberie	-	-	Bucklebury	Clopcote	-	-	{ Clapcote, near Wallingford
Borgefelle	-	-	Burfield	Cocheham	-	-	Cookham
				Cocheswelle	-	-	Coxwell

* This place, which is described as having a church, is unlike in name to any place now known. Dr. Beke supposes it to have been Binfield, anciently Benersfield, which gave name to the hundred, and of which, otherwise, there is no mention.

Colefelle, or Coleshalle	Colehill	Gofei	- - -	Goosey
Comenore	- - Cumner	Grenehame	- - -	Greenham, in Thatcham
Contone	- - Compton	Hacheborne	- - -	Hagbourn
Coferige	- - - Courage, in Cheveley	Hamestede	- - -	Hampsted-Marshall, and Hampsted-Norris
Crocheham	- - Crookham, in Thatcham	Hanlei and Hannei	- - -	Hanney
Crochestrope supposed to be	Coldthrop, in Thatcham	Harewelle, or Harwelle	- - -	Harwell
Deneford	- - Denford, in Avington	Heldernanstone	- - -	Aldermaston
Dencheworde	- - Denchworth	Henret	- - -	East and West Hendred
Deriton, in the hundred of	Taceham	Hentone	- - -	Hinton
Dideorde	- - Dudworth, in Windfor	Herlei	- - -	Hurley
Draicote	- - Draycot, in Longworth	Herlei, Erlei, or Hurlei	- - -	Maiden-Earley, and Earley-White Knights in Sunning
Draitune	- - Drayton	Hevaforde, supposed to be	- - -	Hatford
Dudochesforde	- Duxford, in Hinton	Hildeslei, Hillslei, or	- - -	Illey
Elridge, in the hundred of	Cheneteberie	Hislew	- - -	Inkpen
Eddevetone	- - -	Hingepenne	- - -	Oakfield, in Stratfield- Mortimer
Edtune, or Eltune	- Eaton, in Appleton	Hocfelle	- - -	Hodcot in West-Illey
Eisseberie	- - Ashbury	Hodocote	- - -	Hartridge
Elentone	- - Elynton, in Cookham	Hurterige	- - -	Hungerford
Elinge	- - { Elyng, in Hampsted- Norris	Ingheslote, or Inglefol	- - -	Lockinge
Elleorde	- - Aldworth	Lamborne	- - -	Lamborn
Engelfelle, or Ingelfelle	Englefield	Lecanestede	- - -	Lekhampsted, in Cheveley
Efeldeborne	- - { Shaldbourn, or Shaw- bourn	Ledecumbe, or Leden- cumb	- - -	Letcombe
Effages	- - Shaw	Leie	- - -	Bessils-Leigh
Eftone	- - Aston-Tirolde	Lewartone	- - -	Leverton, in Hungerford
Eftralei	- - Streatly	Liercote, in the hundred of	- - -	Gamesfel, or Ganfield
Etingedone	- - Yatendon	Linford	- - -	Lyford, in Hanney
Etone	- - Eaton-Hastings	Lolindone *, in the hundred of	- - -	Eletesford
Faleslei, or Farellei	- Fawley	Lonchelei, in the hundred of	- - -	Reading
Ferendone	- - Faringdon	Losfelle, in the hundred of	- - -	Ripplefmore
Ferneberge	- - Farnborough	Merceham	- - -	Marcham
Finchamestede	- - Finchampsted	Middletune	- - -	Milton
Fivehide	- - Fyfield	Migeham	- - -	Midgham, in Thatcham
Follefcote	- - { Fowlescot, in South- Morton	Mortune	- - -	North and South-More- ton
Frieliford	- - Frilford, in Marcham			
Frilefham	- - Frilham			
Gainz	- - { East and West-Ginge in Lockinge and West- Hendred			

* On the downs between Cholsey and Aldworth is a clump of trees, called Lollingdon clump, and a farm of the same name.

Nachtededorne *	-	-	Soleham	-	-	Sulham
Nifteton	-	{ Knighton, in Compton- Beauchamp	Soninges	-	-	Sunning
Niwetune	-	- Newington, in Buckland	Soningewell	-	-	Sunningwell
Offelle, in the hundred of Reading			Sotesbroc	-	-	Shottesbrook
Offentone	-	- Uffington	Sotwell	-	-	Sotwell, or Satwell
Offetune	-	- Ufton	Spone	-	-	Spene
Ollavintone	-	- Woolhampton	Sperfolt	-	-	Sperholt
Olvelai	-	- Woolley, in Chaddleworth	Stanforde and Stan-	{	Stanford in the Vale, and Stanford-Dineley	
Olvrictone	-	- Woolston, in Uffington	worde			
Optone	-	- Upton, in Blewbury	Stivetune	-	-	Steventon
Ordegeston	-	- Oddstone, in Ashbury	Stradfeld	-	-	Stratfield Mortimer
Ordia	-	{ Longworth, and Little- worth in Faringdon	Taceham	-	-	Thatcham
Ortone, in the hundred of Ripplemere			Tobenie	-	-	Tubney
Pandeborne, or Pange-	{	Pangborn	Uluritone	-	-	Newbury
borne			Wachenesfield	-	{	Watchfield, in Shriven- ham
Peife, or Pefei	-	- Pufey	Walingeford	-	-	Wallingford
Peteorde	-	- Padworth	Waliford	-	-	Welford
Porlei	-	- Purley	Walsinge	-	-	Wafing
Praxmere, probably	-	Peafmore	Wanetinz	-	-	Wantage
Radinges, or Redinges	-	Reading	Wareford	-	-	Garford, in Marcham
Rameham	-	- Remenham	Warwelt	-	-	Warfield
Sanford	-	- Sandford	Watcumbe	-	{	Watcombe, in Great Shefford
Selingefell, in the hundred of Cerledone			Wenesfelle	-	-	Winkfield
Serengeford	-	- Shillingford	Weregrave	-	-	Wargrave
Seriveham	-	- Shrivenham	Westun	-	-	Weston, in Welford
Sevacoorde	-	- Seacourt, near Witham	Wibalditone, in the hundred of Blitberie			
Sewelle, supposed to be	-	Sulhamfted	Wille	-	-	Wild, in Hampsted-Norris
Siford	-	{ Great and Little Shef- ford	Windefores	-	-	Windfor
Sipene	-	- Shipton, near Abingdon	Winteham	-	-	Witham
Soanesfelt	-	- Shinfield	Wintreburne	-	-	Winterbourn
Sogoorde	-	{ Sugworth, in Sunning- well	Wifelei	-	-	Whitley, in Hurst
Solafel	-	- Swallowfield	Witeham	-	-	Wittenham
			Witelei	-	-	Whitley, near Reading.

Arberfield, Ashampsted, Didcot, East Garston, Hurst, Radley, Ruscombe, Sandhurst, Sandford, Sunninghill, Tidmarsh, Tylehurst, West Woodhay, Wokingham,

* This place is described as having a church, and it gave name to the hundred ; there is no town or village at all resembling it in name, in either of the modern hundreds of Compton or Faircross. Dr. Beke supposes it to have been Market-Ilsey, as being the most considerable place within that district. It is certain that the name must have undergone an entire change, unless it was some place which has been quite depopulated, and of which every memorial has been lost.

and several considerable hamlets and manors, are not mentioned in the survey; nor are the parishes of Binfield, Peafemore, Hatford, and the Sulhamsteds, unless they are meant to be described under the names of Bras, Praxmere, Hevaforde, and Sewelle.

Ecclesiastical Division of Berkshire.

THIS county, which lies within the diocese of Salisbury, is subject to an arch-deacon, whose jurisdiction is co-extensive with the county, and is divided into four deaneries, Abingdon, Newbury, Reading, and Wallingford. Cardinal Wolsey's list, quoted by Camden, makes the number of parishes 140. The present number is 148. This number includes seven parishes, which have parochial chapels subject to other churches, two, (Tubney and All Saints, in Wallingford,) whose churches have been destroyed, and the three new parishes of North and South Hinksey and Wotton. There are 24 chapels of ease. Several others have been destroyed, among which are those of Bayworth, Earley, near Reading, Eastbury, Farlow, Kennington, Upper Lamborn, Langley, Ounham, North and South Standen, and Watchfield. The benefices of White-Waltham and Shottesbrook were consolidated in 1744. Of the 148 parishes, 67 are vicarages, and a few others donatives. The great tythes of almost the whole of these were appropriated to religious houses, and nearly 40 of them are now in lay hands.

Monasteries, Colleges, and Hospitals.

THE Benedictine monks had two great abbeys in this county, Abingdon and Reading, the abbots of which were mitred; a priory at Sandleford, near Newbury, and cells at Hurley and Wallingford. The Benedictine nuns had a priory at Bromhale, in Windsor forest. The Austin canons had priories at Bisham^r, and at Poghley in Chaddleworth. The Cistercians had a cell at Faringdon. The Knights Hospitallers had preceptories at Bisham and Brimpton. At Steventon was an alien priory, subject to the abbey of Bec, in Normandy. Ancient records and historians speak of monasteries at Bradfield, Cholsey, Reading, and Helenstow, in Abingdon, which were destroyed before the conquest. At Shottesbrook and Wallingford were colleges, both suppressed at the dissolution. The Royal Chapel of St. George, at Windsor, still remains collegiate. At Abingdon two ancient hospitals still exist; one of them was refounded in 1533, and the name altered from St. Helen's to Christ's Church. There are ancient hospitals still remaining also at Donnington,

^r When this monastery was refounded by king Hen. VIII. it was replenished with Benedictine monks, under an abbot, who was mitred; but this establishment was of very short duration.

Newbury, and Lamborn: two hospitals at Reading, and one at Wallingford, were suppressed and destroyed before the Reformation. There were hospitals also at Hungerford and Fyfield, which have been long since destroyed.

Market and Borough Towns.

THIS county has no city; Abingdon and Reading are the county towns. The Lent Assizes, and the Epiphany Sessions, are held at Reading; and the Summer Assizes and Hilary Sessions at Abingdon; the Michaelmas Sessions either at Abingdon or Reading, as the magistrates shall determine; the Easter Sessions are held at Newbury.

There are four parliamentary boroughs in this county; Abingdon, Reading, Wallingford, and Windsor. Abingdon returns only one, the others two members each. The county returns two members. Newbury is an ancient borough, and in the reign of Edw. I. made a return of burgeses to parliament¹. Thatcham is described in ancient records as a borough, but never made any return of burgeses².

The present number of market-towns in this county is twelve; Abingdon, Reading, Newbury, Windsor, Wallingford, Maidenhead, Wokingham, Faringdon, Hungerford, East Illey, Lamborn, and Wantage. The first seven of these are incorporated. Abingdon, Reading, Newbury, Wallingford, and Windsor, have great corn-markets: Newbury, Reading, Abingdon, Wallingford, and Windsor, export great quantities of flour, barley, and malt to London. At Newbury the old custom of pitching the corn in open market is still kept up, and the farmers deal for ready money³. Illey is a very great market for lean sheep; it is said that there have been instances of a sale of 20,000 on a market day; the annual average is said to be not less than 250,000⁴. Wokingham market is remarkable for its abundant supply of poultry, bought up by higlers for the consumption of the metropolis. Faringdon and Abingdon have great horse fairs; Lamborn a great fair for heifers in calf, colts, &c. Four thousand swine, for the London and Oxford markets, are said to be slaughtered annually at Faringdon, between the beginning of November and April⁵.

Balking (a hamlet of Uffington), Basilden, Catmere, Cookham, East Hendred, Hinton, Kentbury, Shrivenham, Speen, Stanford in the Vale, Thatcham, Wargrave, West Woodhay, and Yatendon, had formerly markets, all of which have been long ago discontinued. The market at Cookham is mentioned in the survey

¹ Willis's Notitia Parliamentaria.

² Ibid.

³ Pearce's Agricultural Survey of Berkshire.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

of Domesday : the charters for the others are to be found among the records in the Tower.

Population.

It appears by some observations on the ancient population of this county, (communicated by Dr. Beke, Professor of Modern History at Oxford,) that, at the time of the Norman survey, it amounted to between 40,000 and 45,000 souls; and he supposes, that, in 1377, the number was nearly the same; for, in that year, the heads taxed were 22,723, exclusive of paupers, children, and the clergy; but both these periods, he observes, were not many years after events of the most destructive nature; for "Every page of the Domesday survey indicates the desolation caused by the Norman invasion; and the pestilence in the reign of Edw. III. appears, on credible evidence, to have carried off one-third of the people." In 1700 the number of inhabitants in this county is said to have been about 75,000. The number of inhabited houses in Berkshire, in 1801, according to the returns then made to Parliament under the Population Act, was 20,573, of uninhabited houses 622, and of inhabitants 109,215: of these 52,821 were males, and 56,394 females: 38,155 were chiefly employed in agriculture, and 16,921 in trades, manufactures, or handicraft.

The following account of the numbers of houses, families, and persons, is taken from the above-mentioned return, and arranged alphabetically:

			Inhabited Houses.	Uninhabited Houses.	Families.	Persons.
Abingdon	-	-	867	22	1037	4356
—— Barton	} Townships of Abingdon {	-	1	0	1	13
—— Norcot		-	14	1	14	69
—— Shippon		-	29	0	29	128
Aldermaston	-	-	132	0	142	672
Aldworth	-	-	50	4	50	273
Appleton	-	-	65	3	87	341
Arborfield	-	-	29	2	42	171
Ardington	-	-	65	2	65	344
Ashampsted	-	-	58	1	70	314
Ashbury	-	-	122	0	142	654
Aston Tirrold	-	-	60	2	60	294
Avington	-	-	13	0	13	57
Barkham	-	-	37	4	39	185
Bastilden	-	-	127	5	135	623
Beech-hill	} Tything in the Parish of Stratfield Saye * {		35	2	35	184

* Stratfield Saye itself is in Hampshire.

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	Inhabited Houses.	Uninhabited Houses.	Families.	Persons.
Beedon	62	1	62	303
Beenham	70	2	73	381
Befils Legh	19	0	20	99
Binfield	150	8	178	808
Bisham	86	0	114	596
Blewbury	120	4	120	553
——— Aston-Upthorpe	37	2	39	196
——— Upton				
Boxford	37	1	59	293
——— Westbrook (in Boxford)	23	0	28	123
Bradfield	153	6	153	678
Bray	506	21	526	2403
Bright-waltham	78	0	80	420
Brightwell	101	5	110	491
Brimpton	84	1	88	330
Buckland	128	1	153	600
——— Carfwell (in Buckland)	8	1	9	37
Bucklebury	215	3	223	1122
Burghfield	130	2	146	738
Buscot	75	2	83	409
Chaddleworth	61	1	77	385
Cheveley	170	1	171	735
——— Leckhampstead	43	1	68	330
——— Winterbourne				
Childrey	81	3	84	402
Chilton	48	2	48	244
Cholfey	161	6	161	814
——— Moulsoford (in Cholfey)	32	1	36	152
Clewer	191	4	212	1007
Colehill	51	0	69	261
Compton	97	2	102	488
Compton-Beauchamp	23	0	23	119
Cookham	325	9	346	2239
Great Coxwell	43	4	59	241
Cumner	63	0	91	406
——— Botley	18	2	18	68
——— Bradley				
——— Chawley				
——— Chilswell				
——— Hill-end				
——— Stroud				
Denchworth	33	0	44	229
Drayton	90	3	90	484
Dudcot	34	0	38	181
				Eaton

				Inhabited Houses.	Uninhabited Houses.	Families.	Persons.
Eaton-Hastings	-	-	-	22	1	20	137
Enborne	-	-	-	46	4	58	275
Englefield	-	-	-	62	0	119	336
Faringdon	-	-	-	304	5	381	1691
—— Little Coxwell	} in the Parish of Faringdon {			42	1	51	225
—— Hospital				7	0	7	48
—— Littleworth				32	0	34	189
and Thorpe							
Farnborough	-	-	-	42	0	43	213
Fawley	-	-	-	25	2	38	186
Finchampstead	-	-	-	83	1	96	463
Frilsham	-	-	-	42	3	42	187
Fyfield	-	-	-	67	5	82	315
East Garston	-	-	-	111	2	128	609
Goosey	-	-	-	21	0	27	139
Grampound Township *	-	-	-	36	1	42	172
East Hagbourn	-	-	-	102	2	112	499
—— West Hagbourn (in the Parish of East Hagbourn)				39	1	38	196
East Hampsted	-	-	-	87	4	114	566
Hampsted-Marshall	-	-	-	49	0	67	271
Hampsted-Norris	-	-	-	168	5	173	855
West Hanney	-	-	-	70	4	74	330
—— East Hanney	} in the Parish of West Hanney {			112	0	115	535
—— Lyford				24	0	30	124
Harwell	-	-	-	122	0	141	671
Hatford	-	-	-	19	0	19	114
East Hendred	-	-	-	118	5	155	683
West Hendred	-	-	-	62	5	63	309
North Hinksey	-	-	-	25	0	30	111
South Hinksey	-	-	-	36	2	40	162
Hinton	-	-	-	54	1	54	275
Hungerford †	-	-	-	383	15	402	1987
Hurley	-	-	-	170	0	179	915
Hurst ‡, Newland liberty	-	-	-	55	0	63	258
—— Whittlebury liberty	-	-	-	116	4	117	616
—— Winnerth liberty	-	-	-	64	5	82	329
East Illey	-	-	-	112	2	135	512

* The Berkshire part of the suburbs of Oxford, lying within the parish of St. Aldate's in that city.

† Part of the parish of Hungerford (not included in the above return) is in Wiltshire, containing 55 inhabited and one uninhabited house, 57 families and 305 inhabitants.

‡ The liberty of Broad Hinton, which is in this parish, lies in Wiltshire; it contained, in 1801, 75 inhabited houses, the same number of families, one uninhabited house, and 406 persons not included in the above return.

West

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	Inhabited Houses.	Uninhabited Houses.	Families.	Persons.
West Ilsley	48	0	63	341
Inkpen	127	7	127	590
Kentbury	282	8	332	1430
Kingston-Bagpuze	56	1	63	280
Lamborn	197	3	220	964
—— Upper Lamborn	64	0	75	346
—— Blagrave	65	2	72	337
—— Eastbury and Bockhampton	79	1	83	398
} in the Parish of Lamborn {				
Langford	79	1	85	356
—— Little Faringdon (in the Parish of Langford)	23	1	27	131
Letcombe-Basset	45	0	45	230
Letcombe-Regis	95	1	98	394
—— East Challow	53	2	55	229
—— West Challow	27	0	27	185
} in the Parish of Letcombe-Regis {				
East Lockinge	57	2	59	245
Longworth	79	0	85	401
—— Charney	40	1	43	216
—— Draycot-Moore	20	1	27	141
} in the Parish of Longworth {				
Marcham	144	0	144	607
—— Frilford	23	2	31	148
—— Garford	37	1	40	183
} Hamlets of Marcham {				
Maidenhead (in the Parishes of Cookham and Bray*)	156	4	179	949
Milton	66	0	66	310
North Moreton	55	2	64	282
South Moreton	72	3	74	320
Newbury	931	34	971	4275
Padworth	44	0	48	218
Pangbourn	78	2	131	593
Peafemore	54	0	56	266
Purley	27	1	27	153
Pusey	16	2	16	65
Radley	46	0	78	368
Thorpe-wick (in Radley)	3	0	4	25
Kennington (in Radley and Sunningwell)	17	2	21	86
Reading (Parish of St. Giles)	651	10	769	3416
—— Whitley (in the Parish of St. Giles)	4	0	4	28
—— Parish of St. Lawrence	561	13	706	3170
—— Parish of St. Mary	539	9	660	3156
Remenham	56	2	66	299
Rufcomb	27	0	37	170
Sandhurst	34	2	43	222

* The houses and inhabitants in Maidenhead, seem to have been included also in the returns of the respective parishes of Cookham and Bray.

Sandleford

	Inhabited Houses.	Uninhabited Houses.	Families.	Persons.
Sandleford	3	0	3	18
Satwell	25	3	30	68
Seacourt, extra-parochial	7	0	7	30
Shalbourn *	92	0	109	502
Shaw and Donnington	96	5	101	424
East Shefford	9	0	16	70
West Shefford	88	2	90	422
Shillingford	53	1	65	253
Shilton	40	0	56	253
Shinfield †	96	4	100	462
—— Hartley-Dummer (in Shinfield)	45	1	51	252
Shottesbrook	17	0	20	94
Shrivenham	112	0	127	611
—— Bourton	52	0	53	257
—— Fearnham	26	1	34	158
—— Longcot	68	2	75	368
—— Watchfield	57	1	61	305
Speen	71	0	71	408
—— Benham	42	1	55	256
—— Speenhamland	140	7	148	712
—— Wood Speen and Bagnor	79	10	91	371
Sparsholt	76	4	87	410
—— Kingston-Lisle, and Farlow (townships of Sparsholt)	34	0	49	261
Stanford in the Vale,	124	5	132	607
Stanford-Dingley	28	3	28	133
Steventon	101	8	130	537
Stratfield-Mortimer	128	4	131	694
Streatley	106	3	106	556
Sulham	19	1	23	118
Sulhamsted-Abbots	51	2	66	305
—— Griesley liberty (in Sulhamsted Abbots)	17	1	20	87
Sulhamsted Bannister	46	1	64	259
Sunning, including Woodley	187	4	228	1111
—— Early liberty	73	2	78	436
—— Sandford	23	1	27	122
Sunninghill	138	20	155	700
Sunningwell	34	0	39	197
Sutton-Courtney	141	1	166	874
—— Sutton-Wick	36	1	39	198
—— Appleford	36	2	37	200

* Part of this parish, not included in the above return, containing 52 houses, 58 families, and 272 persons, lies in Wiltshire.

† Part of this parish, not included in the above return, containing 28 inhabited, and one uninhabited house, 30 families, and 155 inhabitants, lies in the county of Wilts.

Swallowfield

	Inhabited Houses.	Uninhabited Houses.	Families.	Persons.
Swallowfield	165	4	174	890
Thatcham	407	17	419	1995
—— Greenham } in the Parish of {	132	3	135	633
—— Midgham } Thatcham {	43	0	58	340
Tidmarsh	24	3	27	134
Tubney	13	0	13	79
Tylehurst *	254	8	262	1353
Uffington	76	6	109	432
—— Balking } in the Parish of {	31	0	32	173
—— Woolston } Uffington {	38	0	57	208
Ufton	53	0	67	334
Wallingford, Parish of All Saints	17	0	18	80
—— Clapcote, in the Parish of All Saints	8	0	8	55
—— Parish of St. Mary the More	154	3	184	721
—— Parish of St. Peter	75	1	80	396
—— Wallingford Castle, extra-parochial	3	0	3	14
Laurence Waltham	111	7	116	572
White Waltham	115	6	116	552
Wantage	473	16	493	2339
—— Charlton } Hamlets {	46	2	56	247
—— Grove } of {	93	2	95	397
—— West Lockinge } Wantage {	14	0	14	60
Warfield	158	2	161	820
Wargrave	222	3	276	1134
Wasing	9	0	18	102
Welford	170	4	193	866
Old Windfor	118	6	132	669
New Windfor †	507	33	580	3122
—— Didworth, a Hamlet of Windfor	13	0	15	75
Windfor Castle	0	0	0	239
Winkfield	258	9	293	1465
Witham	40	0	58	246
Little Wittenham	23	2	25	134
Long Wittenham	94	0	116	451
Wokingham Town	280	18	314	1380
Wokingham Parish (exclusive of the Town)	135	4	144	647
West Woodhay	22	2	29	109
Woolhampton	43	0	60	322
Wotton	43	0	48	236
Yattendon	52	1	52	253

The parish of Catmere, which is omitted in the parliamentary report, contains 13 houses and 69 inhabitants; eleven of the houses, containing 45 inhabitants, are in the hamlet of Lilly.

* This parish, in 1783, contained only 206 houses and 1058 persons.

† Exclusive of that part of the town which lies within the parish of Clewer, and is stated in the report to contain 168 inhabited, and 3 uninhabited houses, 226 families, and 688 inhabitants.

Principal Land Owners of the County, at various Periods, and principal extinct Families.

WHEN the survey of Domesday was taken, 46 manors, in this county, were vested in the Crown. Berkshire has always been a favourite royal residence. The Saxon monarchs had palaces at Abingdon, Faringdon, Wantage, and Old Windfor. King Henry I. in the year 1110, removed his court from Old to New Windfor, which has ever since continued to be one of the chief royal palaces, and is the principal summer residence of our present gracious Sovereign; who, besides the princely domain of Windfor forest, retains in his own hands some of the neighbouring manors, and the adjoining hundreds of Bray, Cookham, Beynhurst, and Ripplemere.

At the time of the Domesday survey, the abbot and convent of Abingdon had 31 manors in Berkshire, which they kept in their own hands, besides several others, of which they had the fee. The greatest lay-proprietor was Henry de Ferrars, Earl of Derby, ancestor of the noble family of Ferrars of Chartley, who had 22 manors; William Fitz-Ansculf, ancestor of the Paganel, had 12 manors; the Earl of Evreux had nine manors; Gilbert de Bretville, Walter Fitz-Other, ancestor of the Windfors, Geoffrey de Mandeville, and Ralph de Mortimer, had six manors each; Robert D'oiley, five; Hascoit Musard, Roger de Iveri, Humphrey Vis de Lou, Turstan Fitz-Rolf, and Theodoric, the King's goldsmith, four each; Gilbert, brother of Ansculf, William de Ow, William Lovet, and William, brother of Corbucion, three each. No other person had more than two.

Very few of these estates continued long in the same families which possessed them at the time of the survey. The Windfors retained the manor of Hagbourn for three centuries, but the rest of their estates had long before passed into other hands. The Mortimers held Stratfield-Mortimer, and some other manors in this county, for several generations. Fitz-Ansculf's estates descended from the Paganel to the baronial family of Somery, and eventually became divided among co-heirs. The Musards possessed their estates till the reign of Henry the Third. After the foundation of Reading abbey, that monastery became possessed of several manors in this county.

Between the periods of the Norman Conquest and the Reformation, few instances occur of lay families, whose landed property in Berkshire was very extensive. Among those whose estates were most considerable may be reckoned the Achards, whose name first occurs in the reign of Henry I.; the Fitz-Warrens, who became possessed of property in this county in the reign of King John; the De la Beches, and their heirs and successors the Langfords, who became extinct in the reign of King

King Henry VIII.; the families of Norris and Befils; the De la Poles, who succeeded to large estates by a match with the heiress of Thomas Chaucer, son of the poet, who seems to have possessed them in right of his wife, an heiress of the Burghersts; the family of Essex, and the Winchcombes. All these families are long since extinct in the male line, and most of their lands alienated. The estates of the Achards passed, by female heirs, to the Delamares and Forsters; those of the Fitz-Warrens to the Bouchiers. Some of the estates of the Norris family are still in the possession of their representatives, the Berties: those of the Befils family passed, by a female heir, to the Fettiplaces, who became very numerous, and had extensive landed property in this county, a small part of which, consisting principally of a manor in Childrey, which they possessed long before their match with the heiress of Befils, (as early as the reign of King John,) is now the property of Charles Fettiplace esq. their representative in the female line. His father, Robert Bushell esq. assumed the name, on the death of Sir George Fettiplace bart. the last heir male in 1743. The families of Essex and Winchcombe acquired large property in this county, in the reign of Henry VIII. The estates of the former family (now extinct) were partly inherited from the family of Rogers, of Benham, and partly acquired by purchase and grant. The founder of the Winchcombe family was the celebrated clothier, John Smallwood, alias Winchcombe, commonly called Jack of Newbury, famous for his opulence and patriotism: Henry Winchcombe, his descendant, was created a baronet by King Charles II.; both the title and family are extinct: their estates passed by marriage to the Packers, who were of Shillingford, early in the 17th century, and from them, by another female heir, to the Hartleys, who are now the representatives of both families.

Fuller observes, in his quaint language, "that the lands of Berkshire are very skittish, and apt to cast their owners;" which he imputes, not so much to the unruliness of the beasts, as to the unskilfulness of the riders; and expresses a hearty wish, that the Berkshire gentry may be better settled in their saddles, so that the sweet places in this county might not be subject to so many mutations. This author's remark might be applied, with equal propriety, to the present state of landed property in this county. There are but few large estates which have continued many generations in the same family. One or two have been already mentioned. The estates of the Nevilles, who became possessed of large property in this county, partly by marriage with the Stavertons, but principally by grant from the crown, soon after the Reformation, now belong to their representative, Lord Braybrooke. The large estates of the Craven family have been in their possession nearly two centuries. The families of Reade, Head, and Southby, of whom future mention will be made, have possessed estates in Berkshire for somewhat more than two centuries. The

families of Englefield, Eyston, and Clarke, for a still longer period. But the principal object of the present head is to treat of *extinct* families, or such as are no longer connected with the county.

John Hungerford esq. who died without issue, seized of the manor of Hungerford-Inglesford, in 1729, was the last of that ancient and noble family, who seems to have had any connection with this county. John Peach Hungerford esq. of Dingley-Hall, in Northamptonshire, is a lineal descendant of one of the branches of this family. The Vachells, of Coley, near Reading, who are mentioned by Fuller as one of the most ancient families in the county, quitted all connection with it in the early part of the last century, and removed into Cambridgeshire. The family of Pusey, which became extinct in the male line by the death of Charles Pusey esq. in 1710, are said to have been settled at Pusey before the Conquest, and to have held that estate by cornage, or the service of a horn, under a grant of King Canute. Camden and Fuller both mention this circumstance: the latter observes, that, though persons of regard, none of the name appear as sheriffs of the county. It may be observed also, that their name is not to be found in the list of gentry, bearing date 1433; yet it is certain, that the family was of great antiquity, and had been settled at Pusey at a very early period. Henry Pusey was lord of a manor in Pusey, in the year 1316, as appears by the *Nomina Villarum*, in the British Museum^y, being the only record of a public nature, in which the name has been found to occur; but there are family deeds, which prove that the ancestors of this Henry Pusey had been settled at Pusey, at least six generations before his time; that he himself was afterwards a knight, and that several others of the family were also of equestrian rank^z. The present proprietor of the estate, who has taken the ancient family name, is the honourable Philip Pusey, uncle, by the half blood, of the present Earl of Radnor, who became possessed of it by gift of the two nieces of the last Mr. Pusey. The Wollascots, who had considerable estates at Brimpton, Woolhampton, &c. became extinct not many years ago: the Earl of Fingal married the heiress of that family. The Pleydells, who had estates at Colehill and Shrivenham, are represented by the earl of Radnor. The Blagraves, of Bulmarsh and Southcot, who were of the former place early in the 16th century, are extinct in the male line: a daughter of the last Mr. Blgrave is now the wife of a gentleman of the same name, John Blgrave esq. of Calcot, whose family had been settled, for a considerable time, at Watchfield, in Shrivenham. The Nelsons, who were settled at Chaddleworth about two centuries ago, became extinct in 1748: they are represented, in the female line, by Richard Walter Nelson esq. the present proprietor of the

^y No. 6281. Harl. MSS.
vol. XII. p. 400.

^z See a pedigree of the family of Pusey, in the *Archeologia*,

estate. The Lovedens, who came out of Buckinghamshire, and are mentioned in the list of gentry of that county, A. D. 1433, became extinct in the male line, by the death of Edward Loveden, in 1713: their present representative is Edward Loveden Loveden esq. of Buscot Park. The Tippings, who settled at Woolley park in 1566, became extinct in 1798. The Lenthalls, who have possessed Befils-Legh nearly two centuries, still retain that estate, but have no residence in Berkshire. Captain Pocock, who possesses a manor in Hagbourn, which has been in his family nearly two centuries, has no residence in this county. The family of Pocock were very numerous in Berkshire, and are to be met with in records of the 15th century. The Archers, who settled at Welford about the year 1650, became extinct in the male line by the death of the late Mr. Archer, in 1800. The Breedons, who settled at Bere-Court, near Pangbourn, in 1671, became extinct in the male line, by the death of the late John Breedon, M. D.; they are represented by the present proprietor of Bere-Court, who has taken the name.

Ancient and Present Nobility of Berkshire, including those who have taken their Titles from Places in that County.

CAMDEN observes, that the county of Berks had given title to no man. In 1620, not long after the date of this observation, Francis Norris was created Earl of Berkshire, but, dying without male issue, the title very soon became extinct. In 1625, Thomas Howard was created Earl of Berkshire. Henry Bowes Howard, the fourth Earl, having succeeded to the Earldom of Suffolk, on the failure of male issue in an elder branch of the family, the titles have been ever since united. James Bertie, Lord Norris, was, in 1682, created Earl of Abingdon: the title is now enjoyed by his great grandson. William Lord Knolles was created Viscount Wallingford, in 1616. This title is still nominally enjoyed with the Earldom of Banbury, by a descendant, whose claim has not as yet been recognized by the House of Lords. Sir William Craven was created Baron Craven, of Hampsted-Marshall, in 1627, and Viscount Craven, of Uffington, in 1664. This title became extinct at his death; but the barony, pursuant to a patent of 1665, devolved to a collateral branch of the family. The present Lord Craven was, 1801, created Viscount Uffington, and Earl of Craven. Newbury gave the title of Baron to Charles Fitzroy, natural son of King Charles II. who was created Duke of Southampton in 1675. Baron of Oakingham was one of the titles of Prince George of Denmark, when he was created an English Peer.

The following persons, when summoned to parliament, or created Peers, were described as of places in this county. Thomas St. Amand, Lord St. Amand, of Woodhay, 1299; Thomas West, who married his daughter and heir, Lord St. Amand, of Woodhay, 1344; Nicholas de Carru, Lord Carru, of Moultsford, 1300;

Nicholas De la Beche, Lord De la Beche, of Aldworth, 1344; Neville Lovelace, Lord Lovelace, of Hurley, 1627; Sir Jacob Astley, Baron Astley, of Reading, 1644; Lord Bernard Stuart, Baron Stuart, of Newbury, and Earl of Litchfield, 1644; William Cadogan, Baron Cadogan, of Reading, 1716. All these titles are extinct. The present Lord Cadogan is Lord Cadogan, of Oakley, in Buckinghamshire, under a patent of 1718.

Noblemen's Seats.

The present seats of the nobility in this county are, Ashdown Park, the Earl of Craven's; Witham, the Earl of Abingdon's; Colehill, the Earl of Radnor's, in the occupation of his son, Lord Viscount Folkestone; East-Hampstead Park, the Marchioness of Downshire's; White-Knights, the Marquis of Blandford's; and Billingbere, Lord Braybrooke's; Becket House, the seat of the noble family of Barrington, is about to be altered and enlarged; Benham Place, one of the seats of the late Lord Craven, is, by purchase from her son, the property of his relict, now the consort of his Serene Highness, the Margrave of Brandenburg Anspach, who resides there in the summer season. There are no remains of Hampstead-Marshall, once the magnificent seat of the Craven family. Lord Lindores has a seat at Bray, called Gay's, of which he became possessed in right of his wife, one of the co-heiresses of Sir Thomas Reeve. The Dowager Lady Onslow resides at Old Windsor. The Dowager Lady Howard of Walden, occupies the seat of the late Lord Chief Justice Eyre, at Ruscomb. Lord Dorchester has lately purchased Stubbins, in Bisham, for his own residence; and Lord Ashbrook, Beaumont Lodge, in Old Windsor.

Baronets extinct, and existing.

The extinct Baronets of this county are Essex, of Becket, created in 1612; Forster, of Aldermaston, 1620, extinct in 1711; Darrell, of West Woodhay, 1622; Yate, of Buckland, in 1622, extinct in 1690; Vanlore, of Tylehurst, 1628; Pratt, of Colehill, 1641; Henn, of Winkfield, 1642; Draper, of Sunninghill Park, 1660; Morland, of Sulhamsted-Bannister, 1660; Rich, of Sunning, 1661, extinct in 1803; Fettiplace, of Childrey, 1661, extinct in 1743; Craven, of Sparsholt, 1661, extinct in 1670; of Winchcombe, of Bucklebury, 1661, extinct in 1703; Braham, of New Windsor, 1662; Purefoy, of Wadley, 1662; Hoby, of Bisham, 1666, extinct in 1766; Kenrick, of Whitley, 1679; Ayscombe, of Lyford, 1696, extinct in 1718.

The Baronets who now have seats in the county, are Sir John Throckmorton, of Buckland; Sir Joseph Andrews, of Shaw; Sir William East, of Hall-Place; Sir W. J. James, of Langley Park; Sir George Bowyer, of Radley; and Sir Stephen Lushington, of South-Hill: Basilden, the seat of the late Sir Francis Sykes, has devolved to his grandson, a minor. The ancestor of the Throckmortons was of Warwickshire, when he was advanced to the dignity of a
Baronet;

Baronet; the family became possessed of Buckland, their Berkshire seat, by a marriage with the heiress of Yate. Sir Walter James James, who was created a Baronet in 1791, took the name of James, on inheriting the estates of a family, who had considerable property in the neighbourhood of Hungerford, and other parts of the county, for nearly two centuries. His own paternal name was Head, being descended from a family of considerable antiquity, who acquired Langley and other estates by purchase from the De la Poles^a. Sir W. J. James has not of late resided at Langley. Sir Francis Englefield, when advanced to the dignity of a Baronet in 1612, was described of Wotton-Basset, in Wiltshire; his ancestors had resided for many generations at Englefield, in this county, where at a very early period they held the manor under the Barons' Paganel and Somery. The manor of Englefield was forfeited in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, but some property in that parish remained, till very lately, in the family. The immediate ancestors of Sir Henry Charles Englefield, the present Baronet, who is descended from Anthony, the fifth son of Sir Francis above mentioned, were of White-Knights, in Sunning, which having been sold, he has now no residence in the county, but still retains a considerable estate in the parish of Sunning. Fawley, the seat of the Moores, whose ancestor was created a Baronet in 1627, was sold by Sir John Moore, in 1765, to the Vanfittarts. The present Baronet, Sir Thomas Moore, resides in Hampshire. The ancestors of Compton Reade, who was created a Baronet in 1660, being described of Barton, near Abingdon, resided at that place as early as the reign of Henry VIII. The present Baronet is of Hunt-ridge in Oxfordshire. Barton Court, and other estates in Berkshire, are still in the family, being now the property of the Dowager Lady Reade. William Stonhouse, whose ancestors were settled at Radley, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, was created a Baronet in 1628. Another patent was granted to the family in 1670, under which the present Sir Thomas Stonhouse, who resides in the East Indies, enjoys the title. The Radley estate has passed by a female heir to Sir George Bowyer, whose father, the late Admiral Bowyer, being then of Radley, was created a Baronet in 1794, and in 1799 succeeded to the title of his elder brother, Sir William Bowyer bart. of Denham-Court, in Buckinghamshire. The late Sir Charles Knowles was of Lovel-Hill, in the parish of Winkfield, when created a Baronet in 1765. Sir Andrew Snape Hamond, when created a Baronet in 1783, was of Holly-Grove, in the parish of Old Windfor, but has since quitted the county. Sir Henry Martin, when created a Baronet in 1791, was described of Lockinge, in this county; but he had no other connection with that place, than occasionally

^a From the information of Sir W. J. James bart.

occupying Mr. Bastard's house. Sir Charles Saxton was described of Circourt, in Denchworth, when created a Baronet in 1794; Sir Nathaniel Dance Holland, of Wittenham, in 1800; and Sir Thomas Theophilus Metcalfe, of Chilton, in 1802. The three Baronets last mentioned have estates, but no seats, in the parishes of which they are described. Sir Nathaniel Duckenfield, a Cheshire Baronet, has a seat at Stanlake, in this county, lately purchased. Sir John Coxe Hippeley has a seat at Warfield Grove; and Sir John Harrington, at Old Windsor.

The late Sir Archer Croft had a seat called Dunstan House, in the parish of Thatcham, which, in the letter-press accompanying Rocque's map, published in 1761, is called one of the finest seats in the county. It has been pulled down since Sir Archer's death, and the estate sold.

Principal Gentry and their Seats.

"MANY neat houses and pleasant seats there be," says Fuller, "in this county, both on the Kennet and Thames, as Aldermaston, Englefield," &c. These still rank among the most distinguished in the county, in which class also may be placed, Buscot Park, Holme Park, in Sunning; Padworth House, Pusey House, Sandleford, and Swallowfield. The following list of gentlemen's seats will be found, it is hoped, pretty full and accurate. It is almost impossible to avoid some omissions, particularly in the eastern part of the county, and the neighbourhood of Windsor Forest; where it is probable there are many elegant nameless villas, which it would be difficult to enumerate:

Aldermaston,	} the seat of	Wm. Congreve esq.	Betterton, -	} the seat of	Rev. John Collins
Appleton,		Robert Southby esq.	Bill Hill (Hurft),		Col. Leveson Gower
Arborfield, in the occupation of S. W. Barrett esq.			Binfield, - -		O. E. Elliot esq.
Ardington, -	} the seat of	W. Wiseman Clarke esq.	———, -		Claude Ruffel esq.
Ascot (in Winkfield), - -		Danl. Agace esq.	—— (Pope's House),		Thomas Neate esq.
Babham-end			Bisham Abbey,		G Vanfittart esq. M.P.
(Cookham), -		Adml. Sir G. Young	Bradfield House,		Rev. Hen. Steevens
Barton (Kentbury),		C. Dundas esq. M.P.	Bradfield Hall,		Stephen Wilson esq.
Beams (Shinfield),		H. L. Hunter esq.	Braywick House,		Hon. T. Windfor
Bear Place (Wargrave), -		Moses Ximenes esq.	——— Lodge,		Thomas Slack esq.
Beenham, -		Rev. Mr. Bostock	Bucklebury, -		The Hartleys, now belonging to W. H. H. Hartley, a minor.
Bere-Court (Pangborn), -		Rev. Dr. Breedon	Buscot Park, -		E. L. Loveden esq.

Calcot (Tylehurst),	John Blagrove esq.	Lady Place (Hurley),	G.A.Kempenfelt esq.
Canon Hill (Bray),	James Law esq.	Lockinge, -	I.P.Bastard esq. M.P.
Carlwell (Buckland)	T. W. C. Perfect esq.	Lovel Hill (Wink-	
Chaddleworth,	R. W. Nelson esq.	field), - -	Charles Shard esq.
East Challow,	E. Turner esq.	Luckley House	
Charlton, -	Wm. Price esq.	(Wokingham), -	C. Fythe Palmer esq.
Coley House (Read-		Maiden-Earley (Sun-	
ing), - -	J. MacConnell esq.	ning), - -	Edw. Golding esq.
Compton-Beau-	J.A.Wright esq. M.P.	Maidenhead—villas of Sir Wm. Herne and Sir	Isaac Pocock.
champ, -	(in the occupation		George Elwes esq.
	of Mr. Morell.)	Marcham, -	
Culham Court,	Hon. Fr. West.	Midgham (Thatch-	Wm. Poyntz esq.
Donnington Castle House, in the occupation of	Col. Stead.	am), - -	Mr. Barrett.
		Milton, - -	
—Priory,	F. Cowslade esq.	Oakfield House	Mrs. Brocas.
Down Place (Bray),	John Huddleston esq.	(Stratfield-Mortimer)	
Earley Court (Sun-	Rt. Hon. Sir William	Padworth-House, in the occupation of E. Clarke esq.	
ning), -	Scott, M. P.	Penel Place (Old	James Bonnell esq.
Englefield House,	R. Benyon esq. M.P.	Windfor, - -	Lewis Buckle esq. (at
Farley Hill (Swal-		Prior's Court (Cheve-	present uninhabited.)
lowfield), -	R. Stephenfon esq.	ley), - -	
Faringdon House,	Wm. Hallet esq.	Prospect Hill (Tyle-	I. E. Liebenrood esq.
Fern Hill (Wink-		hurst), - -	Hon. Mrs. Storer.
field), - -	Francis Knollys esq.	Purley, - -	Rev. Dr. Wilder.
Greenham (Thatch-		Purley Hall, -	Hon. Philip Pusey.
am), - -	James Croft esq.	Pusey, - -	
Haines Hill (Hurft),	Mrs. Colleton.	Saint Leonard's Hill	General Harcourt.
Ham House (Want-	Mrs. Walcot (in the	(Clewer), -	M. Montagu esq.
age), - -	occupation of Mrs.	Sandleford, -	
	Goodlake.) -	Selwood Park (Sun-	James Sibbald esq.
	Rev. Dr. Trenchard.	ning Hill), - -	Alex. Cobham esq.
Hendens (Bray),	Basil Eyfton esq.	Shinfield, - -	A. Vansittart, esq.
East-Hendred,		Shottesbrooke, -	The late Gen. Gab-
Heywood (White	John Sawyer esq.	Sparsholt, - -	bit, in the occu-
Waltham), -	Rev. John Loder.		pation of Mr. Wil-
Hinton - -	The late J. Head esq.		liams.
Hodcot - -			Thos. Michell esq.
Holme Park (Sun-	Richard Palmer esq.		Wm. Thoytts esq.
ning), - -		Standen House -	J. Crutchley esq.
Holly-Grove (Old	—Mackay esq.	Sulhamsted-Bannister	
Windfor), -	Mrs. Woven	Sunninghill Park,	Fr. Justice esq.
Hurft House -	—Seymour, a minor.	Sutton-Courtney	T. Hare Earle esq.
Inholmes (Lam-		Rectory, - -	O. Williams esq. M.P.
born), - -		Swallowfield, -	Robert Hopkins esq.
Ives Place (Bray),	Thos. Wyatt esq.	Temple Hall (Bisham)	Wm. Y. Mills esq.
Kingston-Bagpuze,	Adam Blandy esq.	Tidmarsh, - -	
Kingston-Lisle,	A.E.M. Atkins esq.	Wadley, - -	

Wallingford, -	} the feat of	The late Mr. Justice Blackstone, now the property of his son.	Old Windfor Lodge, -	} the feat of	Wm. Webber esq.
			Winkfield Park, -		Thos. Bingley esq.
			—— Place, -		Stanlake Batson esq.
Waltham Place,		George Grant esq.	West-Woodhay, -	} belonging to Robert Orby	Sloper esq. at present unoccupied.
Wasing, - -		Wm. Mount esq.			
Welford, - -		J. A. Houblon esq. (unoccupied).	Woodley (Sunning),	} the feat of	Mr. James Wheeble.
West Court (Finch-		Rev. Ellis St. John	Woodside House (Old Windfor),		Rev. Dr. Ogilvie
amsted,) - -			Woolhampton, -		Mrs. Crewe.
White's Place			Woolley Park (Chad-		
(Cookham), -		G. H. Leycester, esq.	dleworth), - -		Rev. P. Wroughton.
Willows (Bray), -		Townley Ward esq.	Yattendon, - -		I. A. Gallini esq.
Old Windfor					
Manor house,		H. Isherwood esq.			

Fuller, after quoting the list of Berkshire gentry, as returned by the commissioners in the twelfth year of Henry VI. adds, "Gardeners complain that some kinds of flowers and fruits will not grow prosperously, and thrive kindly, in the suburbs of London: this they impute to the smoke of the city offensive thereunto. Sure I am, that ancient gentry in this county, sown thick in former, come up thin in our age."

"Of names which were in days of yore,
Few remain here of a great store."

It is remarkable, that there is not one family descended, in the male line, from any of the gentry enumerated in the above-mentioned list now left in the county; and it is believed, that Sir H. C. Englefield is the only person so descended, who possesses an estate in it. Many of the Berkshire gentry, nevertheless, are of ancient families, who have been long settled in the counties, from which they have emigrated. The Eystons, of East Hendred, although their name does not occur in the list, were settled at that place in the reign of Edw. III.; having, by a marriage with the heiress of De Arches, become possessed of the manor, which has descended, in an uninterrupted male line, to the present proprietor. The Clarkes became possessed of Ardington, their present residence, in the reign of Henry VII. The Southbys have been settled at Appleton about two centuries; and the Seymours, at Inholmes, about the same time; the Loders were of Harwell, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and afterwards of Baldon Park, in Kentbury, from whence they removed to Hinton; the Prices were of Farnborough, as early as the middle of the 17th century; the family of Justice have been settled for several generations at Sutton-Courtney; the Vansittarts, for nearly a century, at Shottesbrooke.

Among

Among the deserted and dilapidated mansions of the extinct gentry may be reckoned Little Shefford, the seat of the Befils family, and afterwards of the Fettiplaces; Ockholt, the seat of the Norris family; Shillingford, the seat of the Packers; and Welford, the seat of the Archers. Yattendon, another seat of the Norris family, has been pulled down, and Befils-Legh, which was the seat of the Fettiplaces, and afterwards of the Lenthalls.

Geographical and geological Description of Berkshire.

THIS county is of a very irregular form: according to Rocque's mensuration, it is 207 miles in circumference: its greatest length, from Old Windfor to the County Cross, near Hungerford, 42 miles: its greatest breadth, from Witham, near Oxford, to the borders of Hampshire, south of Newbury, 28 miles and an half; and its narrowest, from the Thames, by Reading, to the borders of Hampshire, in a direct south line, only seven miles. It is bounded on the north by Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire, on the east by Surrey, on the south by Hampshire, and on the west by Wiltshire; at the north-west corner it just touches upon Gloucestershire. A part of Wiltshire, detached at a considerable distance from the rest of that county, lies in the neighbourhood of Wokingham and Reading, surrounded by Berkshire, including part of the parishes of Wokingham, Hurst, Shinfield, and Swallowfield. Two Berkshire parishes, Langford and Shilton, lie on the north side of the Thames, surrounded by Oxfordshire.

The following valuable observations on the geology and agriculture of this county, have been obligingly communicated by Dr. Beke:—"By a careful measure of Rocque's Map^b of Berkshire, corrected as to longitude and latitude, by the trigonometrical survey, and the astronomical observations which have settled the longitude of Oxford, I find that Berkshire contains about 464,500 acres. The parishes of Langford and Shilton are included in this calculation, which lie north of the Thames, and are surrounded by Oxfordshire, and the parts of Wiltshire are omitted, which lie in and near the precincts of Windfor Forest.

"The basis of the following geological and agricultural division of Berkshire is Rocque's map, of which the topographical accuracy is very highly and deservedly esteemed. Changes have happened since his survey was taken, chiefly in consequence of inclosures; but their effects are accounted for in the following estimate, which may be depended upon as not materially erroneous.

^b Rocque makes the area of Berkshire somewhat too large as to geographical extent; but, on the other hand, he considerably under-rates the measure of degrees, and consequently his scale of miles is a little too long, and his calculation in acres too low.

	Acres.
" The arable land in Berkshire amounts to about - - - -	255,000
The meadows, in different parts, and dairy land in the vale - -	72,000
Sheep-walks, chiefly uninclosed, on the chalk hills - - -	25,000
Other dry pastures, parks, &c. - - - - -	25,000
Wastes, chiefly barren heaths - - - - -	30,000
Other space, occupied by buildings, courts, fences, roads, rivers, &c. -	27,500
Total - -	434,500

" Since the cultivation of any country must always depend much on its geology, I shall give a short sketch of the superficial *strata*, which are most worthy of observation in this county. Close to the Thames, in the northern part of it, there is a narrow but very fertile line of meadow, from which the land rises, in most parts gently, to a line of moderately elevated hills, extending from Oxford to Faringdon. The *substratum* of this elevated line is generally calcareous stone, of various degrees of hardness, being part of the same *stratum*, which, with few interruptions, crosses the kingdom in a north-eastern direction, from the west of Dorsetshire, nearly parallel to the great line of chalk, and a few miles distant from it. This line of the county is in general very good, dry corn land, though in some parts too sandy. Gently descending from this to the south is the remarkably fertile vale of Berkshire, which crosses the county from the parish of Shrivenham, on the west, to Cholsey, on the eastern boundary. At present, as when the Domesday survey was taken, the western part of this vale is employed as pasture land, chiefly dairy, while the sides and eastern part are arable, and may be reckoned some of the most productive wheat land in the kingdom. The soil of this vale, in general, is a strong, grey, calcareous loam, which evidently owes its excellence to the intimate mixture of vegetable mould with cretaceous earth. It is such as may be found at the foot of chalk hills, quite across the kingdom, on the north-west side; but the fertility differs considerably, according to the various proportions of the component parts. Every where, in the whole extent of this narrow vale, from Dorsetshire to Norfolk, the soil is of the same general description; though some parts, as the Vale of Aylesbury, and of the White Horse, are perhaps of rather greater extent, and more remarkable fertility. Next to this vale, on the south, are the chalk hills, which here preserve their general character, on their north-west side, rising, by a very steep ascent, in general bare of wood, and with a fine turf.

" It may be generally remarked of the whole north-west part of the great chalk *stratum* of this kingdom, that it is less indented, more elevated, and more steeply terminated

terminated than on the opposite side, where, in general, it sinks gently, becoming gradually more and more covered with reddish soil and gravel, till, in many places, it is entirely lost. Though the chalk *stratum* crosses quite through the whole county, yet it is only in the western part of it that it is so elevated as to be chiefly a sheep-walk. The Thames, entering the chalk hills at Streatley, crosses them obliquely, from thence onwards leaving their more elevated part on the north of the river, in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire; so that the eastern part of that *stratum*, in Berkshire, is sufficiently covered to become better adapted to tillage than to sheep-walk. The sheep-walks, on the elevated part of the chalk ridge, in Berkshire, are of very good quality, but not of great extent, when compared with those of Wiltshire and Dorsetshire. To the south of them is a vale, which, beginning about the middle of Wiltshire, continues, almost in a straight line, from thence to the eastern sea, having in it the channel of the Kennet, from Hungerford almost to Reading, and that of the Thames, from Bray, in Berkshire, to the sea.

“ The land descends gently, in general, from the chalk hills to the middle of this vale, on the north, and is usually a reddish earth, more or less mingled with chalk or flints; good arable land, and not badly wooded. The lower part of the vale is gravelly, but with some very fertile corn land, a deep loam, easily cultivated. The whole course of the river Kennet is through a bed of peat, from Hungerford to Reading. In that town it passes between two hills; and it seems, that anciently the channel between them could not have been sufficiently depressed to prevent the river from forming a morass, in its whole extent, for about 25 miles above this obstruction. South of the Kennet, not far from Hungerford, there begins a tract of poor gravel and clay; at first, for many miles, very narrow, but becoming of considerable width in the eastern part of the county, and continuing, with few interruptions, quite to Blackheath, in Kent, being every where very ferruginous, and in many parts exceedingly barren. The southern boundary of the county every where passes through this line of coarse land, of which the greater part is uncultivated, and produces little but heath.

“ In consequence of the great extent of barren heath, on the southern border of this county, in its eastern parts, and of the sheep-walks on the chalk hills, the quantity of cultivated land does not exceed the general average of the kingdom. With respect to what remains in a state of nature, its quality is rather the cause why it remains unimproved, than any want of enterprize in the proprietors. The sheep-walks on the chalk hills can scarcely be made more valuable than in their present state, either to the proprietors, or the public; though the tenant, who has only a temporary

temporary interest, might derive great profit, for a few years, by ploughing them. The heaths in the forest must depend, for improvement, on the comparative value of money, and of the produce of agriculture; and it cannot be expected in any great extent, unless the value of that produce will evidently afford a rent to the improver, which shall be a full indemnification for his expenses."

Dr. Beke remarks, that the cultivation of Berkshire, at the time of the Domesday survey, was very considerable, particularly in all the parts west of Reading, as appears, not only from the number of carucates, which, being about 2125, will, according to the generally supposed quantity of a carucate, give about 160,000 acres, two-thirds of the present quantity of arable land, but from the great number and high annual value of the mills. "The ancient toll for grinding being about a sixteenth of the clear average rent of the mills, amounted to about a twenty-fifth part of the whole annual landed value." It is to be remarked, also, that some large and fertile parishes, as Tylehurst, Tidmarsh, and Beenham, are omitted in the survey, and several shares of mills are mentioned, the remaining parts of which are unnoticed.

Under this head little occurs in addition to the professor's observations: it is worthy of remark, perhaps, that of the 438,977 acres, at which Mr. Rocque estimates the total extent of this county, two parishes alone, Lamborn and Thatcham, contain 25,342 acres, Winkfield about 9000, and twelve other parishes upwards of 7000 each. There are some extensive waste lands in the eastern part of the county, as Maidenhead thicket, and several parts of Windfor forest, and its neighbourhood. This celebrated forest was formerly of much greater circuit than it is at present, extending itself into Buckinghamshire and Surrey^c, and over the whole of the south-eastern part of Berkshire, as far as Hungerford. The vale of the Kennet was disforested by charter in 1226^d. Norden's map of the forest^e, taken in the year 1607, makes its circuit 77 miles and a half, exclusively of the liberties which extended into Buckinghamshire, the true limits of which he could not ascertain. It was then divided into 17 walks, including Fiennes Bailiwick, within which were situated the parishes of Remenham, Hurley, Wargrave, Bray, the two Walthams, Shottesbrooke, Hurst, Ruscomb, and Binfield. The circuit of the forest, as described in Rocque's map, appears to be about 56 miles, including

^c The forest, on the Surrey side of the Thames, included Cobham and Chertsey; and, following the course of the river Wey, extended up to the town of Guildford, as appears by a survey, taken at the last court of Swannimote, about the middle of the 17th century, now in the possession of T. B. Richards esq.

^d Cart. 11 Hen. III.

^e In the British Museum.

the whole parishes of Arborfield, Barkham, Binfield, East-Hampstead, Finch-hampstead, Sandhurst, Sunninghill, Warfield, Winkfield, New and Old Windfor, together with part of the parishes of Bray, Clewer, Hurst, Wokingham, Swallowfield, and White Waltham. A great part of Bagshot heath is within the forest; the greater part of most of the parishes within its limits is in culture. Windfor great park has been reduced by his present Majesty, from 3800 to 1800 acres, 2000 acres having been brought into cultivation^f.

The south and east sides of the county have a large proportion of woodland. The predominant wood of the county is hazel, occasionally mixed with oak, beech, ash, and alder. The chief quantity of timber is at the eastern extremity of the county, in and about Windfor Forest, in the vale of the Kennet, and by the banks of the Thames, where are some entire woods of beech. It is in this part of the county that we must look for picturesque and pleasing scenery, particularly in Windfor Forest, the road from Reading to Wallingford, and the banks of the Thames between Henley and Maidenhead. From the high ground between Bafilden and Ashampstead, there is a very rich prospect over the vale of Kennet, towards Hampshire; from the downs, about Letcombe Castle, a very extensive view over the vale of White Horse, towards Oxfordshire. The high grounds between Henley and Maidenhead afford some very beautiful views of the Thames, and the well-wooded banks on the Buckinghamshire side of the river. The prospect from Windfor Castle is well known, and justly admired for its richness and extent, as well as for the many interesting objects which it embraces.

NATURAL HISTORY.

Fossils.—This county does not produce any valuable minerals, nor any great variety of extraneous fossils. There is a *stratum* of sand about two feet thick, in a field called Catfigrove, near Reading, in which are great quantities of large oyster shells, lying immediately beneath a *stratum* of fuller's earth. Woodward observes that the same *stratum* of sand, with oyster shells, is to be found, at various depths from 15 to 25 feet, for two miles on every side of Reading^g. The same author also mentions *Echini* of several kinds, and a shark's tooth, as found at Catfigrove^h. Fossil shells of various kinds, and other marine productions, are to be

^f Pearce's Agricultural Survey. d. 27. and d. 32. p. 52. e. 10.

^g Catal. vol. 2. p. 41. a. 22.

^h Catal. vol. 2. p. 50.

seen in great abundance, bedded in the *stratum* of lime stone, which at some distance follows the course of the chalk hills, especially in the neighbourhood of Faringdon.ⁱ Woodward mentions *anomia*, shark's teeth, and parts of fishes, found at Faringdonⁱ; and *astroita*, &c. found at Abingdon. *Echini*, and other extraneous fossils, have also been found near Wokingham. Woodward mentions the thigh bone of an ox, dug up in a gravel pit in Windsor Park^k; and moss-earth, and branches of birch trees, in the marshes of Windsor Forest^l. Peat is found in the vale of the Kennet, on both sides of the river, for several miles above and below the town of Newbury. The *stratum* of peat lies at various depths below the surface of the ground, and varies in thickness from one to 8 or 9 feet; gravel is usually found underneath it^m. The peat is sold for 14s. per load, and the ashes for three pence halfpenny per bushel, to the farmers, to whom they afford an excellent manure; horns, heads, and bones of various animals, have been found in the peat.

It will here be proper to mention those remarkable stones of a fine siliceous grit, called by the country people *Sarsden* stones, or the *grey weathers*, which are scattered over the Berkshire and Wiltshire downs; they appear to have been removed by some violent concussion of the earth, as they evidently lie on strata to which they do not naturally belong. The greatest number of them are to be seen in a valley near Ashdown Park, on a stratum of chalk; others on a bed of clay, in the parish of Compton-Beauchampⁿ. They are frequently blasted with gunpowder, and used for pitching, &c. but are too hard to be worked.

Rare Plants.—This county does not produce many rare plants. The last edition of Camden gives a short list, but none of them are very rare: among those which occur the least frequently are, the *Salix rubra*, the *Myrica Gale*, and the *Monotropa hypopitys*. Dr. Abbot has lately communicated to the editor of the English Botany, the *Asarum Europæum* found by himself in the beech-woods between Henley and Maidenhead. The *Iberis Amara* is to be found growing abundantly as a weed in the corn fields near Wallingford. The *Antirrhinum monspessulanum*, or, as it is called by Dr. Smith in the English Botany, *Antirrhinum repens*, a plant of rare occurrence, grows abundantly on the chalky banks of Henley hill,

ⁱ Catal. vol. 1. part 2: p. 45. f. 200. f. 206. *ibid.* p. 84. n. 76. p. 85. n. 95. and n. 99.

^k *Ibid.* p. 87. o. 5. ^l *Ibid.* part 2. p. 17.

^m Phil. Transf. vol. 4. p. 109. 115. Collections towards a parochial history of Berkshire in Bibl. Top. Brit. p. 34. ⁿ See some observations on these stones by the Hon. Daines Barrington. Archæologia, vol. 8. p. 442.

which

which lies in the parish of Remenham, in Berkshire. Dr. Beke has found the *Lycopodium selago*, and the *Lycopodium inundatum*, in a bog on Ufton Common, the *Lycopodium fornicatum*, at Sulhamsted, the *Gentiana Pneumonanthe*, on Sulhamsted Common, and the *Astragalus glycyphyllus*, near Twyford turnpike. The *Galanthus nivalis* grows very plentifully in a wild state in Ufton woods, and the *Euphorbia Lathyris* is naturalized on several stony banks in the same neighbourhood.

Mineral Springs.—The only mineral springs of any note in this county, are those at Cumner and Sunninghill, the first a mild cathartic, the other a very weak chalybeate. That of Cumner was formerly in some repute, but has been long disused. There is a strong chalybeate spring called Gorrick-well, near Luckley House, in the parish of Wokingham, and some springs near Windfor, of the nature of the Epsom waters°.

Rivers.

THE principal rivers of Berkshire are the Thames, the Kennet, the Loddon, the Ock, the Lambourn, and the Auborn.

The Thames, the chief of British rivers, forms the boundary of this county, during a course of more than one hundred miles, separating it from the counties of Oxford and Buckingham, and, on its Berkshire side, passing by the towns of Abingdon, Wallingford, Reading, Maidenhead, and Windfor, and the villages of Buscot, Eaton-Hastings, Witham, Sutton-Courtney, Streatley, Pangbourn, Purley, Sunning, Wargrave, Remenham, Hurley, Bisham, Cookham, Bray, Clewer, and Old Windfor. It is navigable as high as St. John's bridge near Lechlade, where it first becomes a boundary to this county. The bridges over it, as far as its course is connected with Berkshire, are Radcot, an ancient bridge of three arches on the road from Faringdon to Burford; Tadpole bridge, on the road from Buckland to Bampton; New bridge^p; on the road from Abingdon to Whitney; Ensham bridge, of six arches, built about the year 1777 by the late Earl of Abingdon, on the road from Oxford to Gloucester; the bridge leading from Oxford towards Abingdon^q; Burford and Culham bridges, at and

° Mr. Brokesby, in his letter on the antiquities and natural history of England, printed in the sixth vol. of Leland's Itinerary, (p. 100,) mentions a spring of this nature at Foli-john, in the parish of Winkfield.

^p This bridge, notwithstanding its appellation, is a very ancient structure. It has six arches. Two annual fairs are held at it; March 31 and September 28.

^q Godstow bridge, and the bridges over the several streams of the Thames in the approach to Oxford, are all in Oxfordshire.

near Abingdon, on the road from London to Cirencester; Shillingford bridge, on the road from Oxford to Wallingford; Wallingford bridge; the wooden bridge between Pangbourn and Whitchurch, built by act of Parliament in 1792; Caversham bridge, near Reading; Sunning bridge; Henley bridge, formerly of wood, rebuilt with stone^r in 1787, after a design of Mr. Hayward; a wooden bridge at Great Marlow, built in 1789; Maidenhead bridge, formerly of wood, rebuilt with stone in 1780, after a design of Sir Robert Taylor; a wooden bridge which connects Windsor and Eton, and Datchet bridge.

An act of parliament passed in the 21st year of King James the First for making the Thames navigable from Oxford to Bercot, in Berkshire. Under this act certain commissioners of sewers claim jurisdiction for that district; the commissioners of the Thames claim jurisdiction through the whole course of the river from London to Lechlade. Although from time to time some of the most material defects have been occasionally remedied, yet nothing effectual was done towards the improvement of the navigation until after the year 1793, when a committee was appointed by the House of Commons to inquire into the state of the Thames navigation. Mr. Loveden of Buscot Park, who has for many years been a zealous advocate for the improvement of the navigation, was chairman of this committee. In 1795, an act of Parliament passed to explain and amend two former acts of 1771 and 1775, and to give new powers for improving the navigation of the Thames. Since the passing of this act the navigation has been materially improved, particularly by the removal of shoals and the building of some new locks; but much remains to be done, the navigation being still tedious and uncertain, particularly for large vessels. In 1784 a canal was projected from Lechlade to Abingdon, which was to have passed near Buscot, Eaton-Hastings, Faringdon, Hinton, Longworth, Fyfield, and Marcham; but it was successfully opposed in the House of Commons, by persons who were interested in other canals. Some years afterwards it was proposed to make a canal from Harts ferry, near New bridge, to Abingdon: but this also was unsuccessful. In 1794, a canal was proposed to be made from Isleworth in Middlesex to Datchet in Buckinghamshire, passing through Horton. The bill for this canal passed the House of Commons, but was rejected by the Lords. It is now in contemplation to make some cuts between Oxford and Lechlade, for the purpose of very materially shortening the distance, and avoiding some inconveniences in the navigation. One of the most important of these cuts is that intended to be made from Tadpole bridge to Chimley, which, passing through Oxfordshire, will save a distance

^r The key-stones of this bridge are ornamented with masks of the Tame and Isis, carved in stone by the Hon. Mrs. Damer.

of nearly four miles. Another is that from Botley to the upper end of Cumner meadow through Berkshire, which will save a distance of more than seven miles and a half out of eleven.

The Thames in its course through Berkshire, produces barbel, pike, trout, and various other common fish, besides carp and tench, supposed to be brought thither by floods. There are numerous fishing weirs on the river, which are esteemed very injurious to the navigation. It has been frequently proposed that an application should be made to Parliament for power to purchase them.

The river Kennet having divided this county from Wiltshire for about two miles, enters it at Hungerford, thence it passes by Avington and Kentbury (to which it gives name) and between Hampsted-Marshal and Spene to Newbury, near which town it is joined by the Lambourn. At Newbury it becomes navigable*, and passes thence through a rich vale, leaving the villages and hamlets of Thatcham, Woolhampton, Beenham, Englefield, Theale, and Tylehurst, on the North; and Brimpton, Wasing, Aldermaston, Padworth, Upton and the Sulhamsteds on the South, till it reaches Reading, between which town and the neighbouring village of Sunning it falls into the Thames, its course through this county having been nearly 30 miles.

The Kennet produces a great variety of fish, among which are trout, pike, barbel, perch, eels, cray-fish, chub, roach, and dace; there are no barbel west of Newbury; the trout of this river have long been celebrated for their size and flavour; Fuller speaks of them in his *Worthies*. The editor of the *Magna Britannia* mentions the trout of the Kennet as being of a prodigious size, and speaks of one 45 inches in length, taken at Newbury. A gentleman of that town (Mr. Toomer) had in his possession, not many years ago, three trouts which weighed 15lb. each, two of them had been fattened in his stew, the other was of that weight when taken out of the river. At another time he had a trout in his stew, which grew till it attained the weight of 17lb. it was given by him to the late Lord Craven, who sent it as a present to her Majesty.

The river Loddon, the subject of Pope's fable of *Lodona*, rises near Aldershot in Hampshire. At Blackwater it begins to be a boundary between that county and Berkshire, and so continues for about eight miles, passing between Sandhurst and Yately. It enters Berkshire in the parish of Swallowfield, and passing by that village and between Shinfield and Arborfield, crosses the Wokingham and Reading road at Loddon bridge, the Bath road at Twyford, and falls into the Thames

* It was made navigable from Newbury to Reading by an act of Parliament which passed in 1715.

† Near this village it is joined by the Aubourn.

near Wargrave; its course after it has entered this county being about 12 miles. A brook called the Emme rises near Bagshot rails, and passing Wokingham falls into the Loddon at Sandford mill.

The river Ock rises from two or three springs near Uffington; it passes near Stanford, Charney-Basset, Lyford, and Garford. In Hanney mead it is joined by a brook, which rising near Letcombe-Basset runs by Letcombe-Regis, Wantage, and Hanney; it then passes between Marcham and Drayton, and falls into the Thames at Abingdon, the whole of its course being about 20 miles. The fish of the Ock are pike, perch, gudgeon, roach, dace, and cray-fish. The pike are esteemed remarkably fine.

The Aubourn rises in Berkshire, near Inkpen, but soon becomes a boundary between this county and Hampshire, passing through Newtown, a few houses of which are on the Berkshire side: it continues its course eastward till it has passed a place called Hide End; when bending northward it again enters the county, runs in an oblique direction between Brimpton and Wasing, and falls into the Kennet a little below the last mentioned village. Its course, from the farthest spring on Inkpen common, to its junction with the Kennet, is about 17 miles.

The Lambourn rises amongst the hills above the town of the same name, and running by the road side passes through Bockington, Eastbury, East-Garston, the two Sheffords, Weston, Welford, Easton, Westbrook, Boxford, Bagnor, Donnington, and Shaw; near the last mentioned place it falls into the Kennet, its course being about 16 miles. Most writers who have treated of the topography of this county relate that this river is always full in the summer, and its stream entirely lost in the winter. The same story is told in a poem by Joshua Sylvester, the translator of *Dubartas*. By the testimony of persons of veracity and observation, residing in the neighbourhood, it appears that little credit is to be given to this tale, but that the truth is, that the river preserves, during the whole year, a pretty equal degree of fulness, being seldom affected by the drought of summer, or subject to inundations in the winter. During the remarkable drought of the summer of 1803, its source was completely dried up for some months. The Lambourn abounds with the same fish as the Kennet, but the trout are of a paler colour, and not so much esteemed.

A stream which rises at Ginge, runs through East Hendred, Steventon, and Milton, and falls into the Thames at Sutton-Courtney.

Navigable Canals.

THE Wilts and Berks canal, which was undertaken in 1793, under the direction of Mr. Whitworth, is intended to enter Berkshire at Hackson bridge, near Shrivenham,

ham, to pass by Shrivenham and Uffington, to leave Sparsholt and Childrey on the south, to pass by the Challows, and near Wantage, to which there is to be a collateral cut, and between Hanney and Drayton to Abingdon. This canal is finished, excepting that part which is to pass through Berkshire. The digging has lately been contracted for, as far as Longcot, a hamlet of Shrivenham. The Kennet and Avon canal, for the making of which an act of parliament passed in 1794, enters Berkshire at Hungerford, and passes parallel with the river Kennet to Newbury: the Berkshire part of this canal is completed.

Roads.

THE great Bath road enters this county at Maidenhead Bridge, and passes over Maidenhead Thicket, through Twyford, to Reading, from whence it accompanies, at a small distance, the course of the Kennet to Hungerford, where it quits the county at about the 65th mile stone. The road from London to Oxford enters the county also at Maidenhead Bridge, and having passed by Hurley, quits it at Henley Bridge. The Cirencester road, which branches off at Dorchester, enters Berkshire again at Abingdon; and, passing through Fyfield, Kingston-Bagpuze, Faringdon, and Buscot, finally quits the county at St. John's bridge, near Lechlade. The road from Faringdon to Oxford quits the London road near Fyfield, and passes through Tubney wood and Befils-Legh; leaving Cumner on the left, it enters Oxfordshire at Botley.

There are three other roads from London to Reading, besides that through Maidenhead already mentioned, all of which pass, for a considerable distance, through this county. One enters it at Windsor Great Park, and goes through Winkfield and Binfield: another, called the Forest Road, lately made, passes through the same villages by a different course from Windsor town: the third enters this county near the Virginia Water, on Bagshot Heath, passing through Sunninghill, Bracknell, and Wokingham, over Loddon Bridge.

The road from London to Wantage enters this county at Wallingford, and passes through Brightwell and Harwell. A turnpike road is continued from Wantage, through East Challow and Stanford in the Vale, to Faringdon.

The road from Oxford to Winchester enters this county within the suburbs of Oxford. It passes through Abingdon, Drayton, Steventon, East Ilsley, Beedon, and Newbury, about three miles beyond which town it enters Hampshire. The road to Hungerford quits the last-mentioned road two miles beyond Steventon, and passes through Wantage and West Shefford.

The road from Oxford to Chichester enters this county at Shillingford Bridge, and passes through Wallingford, Moulsoford, Streatley, Bafilden, Pangbourn, and Aldermaston:

Aldermaston: a little beyond the last-mentioned village it quits the county. From Pangbourn a turnpike road continues through Purley to Reading.

The road from Reading to Basingstoke passes through Swallowfield, and quits the county at the entrance of Heckfield Heath.

A turnpike road, from Lambourn to Newbury, passes by the side of the Lambourn stream through East Garston: the two Sheffords, Welford, Boxford, and Donnington.

Most of the turnpike roads in Berkshire are very good: the same may be said of the private roads in the south eastern part of the county, particularly in the neighbourhood of Reading; in the Vale of White Horse, they are very deep and miry, and in the winter season almost impassable.

Manufactures.

BERKSHIRE was formerly one of the principal seats of the clothing manufacture, which flourished particularly in the towns of Abingdon, Reading, and Newbury; and, it is probable, extended itself to other neighbouring towns and villages. Some ancient records speak of fulling-mills at East Hendred, which was formerly a market town. This manufacture continued to be carried on to a considerable extent, in Fuller's time (the middle of the 17th century); but it soon afterwards declined, and has for several years been wholly discontinued. There are some cotton manufactories near Newbury, and a large paper-mill: another paper-mill at Bagnor, in the neighbourhood, and a large blanket manufactory at Greenham Mills, near Thatcham. Sacking, and coarse weather-proof coats, are made at Abingdon and Wantage. The silk manufacture is carried on at Wokingham, to a small extent.

In the parish of Bisham are some very ancient mills, called Temple Mills, as having belonged formerly to the Knights Templars. In the early part of the last century, being employed for making brass and copper pans and kettles, they were known by the name of Bisham Abbey Battery Works. The proprietors having been engaged in the unfortunate speculations of the South Sea year, the loss occasioned by working the Temple Mills is noticed in some of the journals^u, among the bubbles of that memorable period. In 1748, Temple Mills continued to be employed for making brass and copper pans and kettles; and there were two other mills, one for making thimbles, and the other for pressing oil from rape and flax seed, both said to have been attended with great advantage to the proprietors^x. In 1759, the mills were worked for brass and copper only, by their proprietor,

^u See Mist's Journal, Nov. 26, 1720.
vol. II. p. 71.

^x Tour through Great Britain, vol. IV. 8vo. 1748.

William Ockenden esq. one of the members for the borough of Marlow. Temple Mills are now the property of Owen Williams esq. who succeeded his late father in the representation of the borough of Marlow. The late Mr. Williams purchased the mills in 1788, of George Pengree esq. whose uncle was the immediate successor of Mr. Ockenden. The manufactures now carried on at these mills, which are esteemed some of the most complete and powerful of the kind in the kingdom, are confined to the rolling of copper sheets, for various purposes, the rolling of copper bolts for the navy, and other shipping, and hammering out copper pans and bottoms for distilleries, &c. There was also a mill for drawing brass wire; but it has not been worked for the last eight or nine years.

Upon the whole, Berkshire cannot be considered as a manufacturing county, as may be clearly seen by the proportionate number of persons employed in agriculture, and those employed in trade, manufactures, and handicraft, according to the returns made to Parliament under the Population Act, in 1801; the former being 38,155, the latter only 16,921.

ANTIQUITIES.

Roman Remains.—Traces of Roman buildings have been found in the parish of White Waltham, in Weycock field ^y in the parish of Lawrence Waltham ^z, and at a place called Wickham Bushes, near Cæsar's Camp, on Bagshot Heath. Roman bricks, &c. are also said to have been found at Old Windfor. Great quantities of Roman pottery were discovered in 1783, at a farm called the Roundabout, near Bagshot Park, and also at Wickham Bushes before mentioned ^a. A large urn, probably Roman, was found in Spene-moor, about one mile and a half west of Newbury, under a *tumulus* of earth, eight feet high ^b. Roman coins and urns have been found at Lawrence-Waltham, St. Leonard's Hill, near Windfor ^c, at Wallingford, on Bagshot Heath, and at Wantage. Leland says, that they were found within the camp on Sinodun Hill, but none have been seen there of late years. Stukeley mentions a Roman altar, dedicated to Jupiter, dug up in 1730, at Frilsham, near Spene. It has been said that there are two Roman mile stones between Streatley and Aldworth ^d. We were not able, on inquiry in the neighbourhood, to learn where they are situated.

^y Lel. Itin. vol. I. pref. p. ix.
p. 200. 203.

^z Lel. Itin. vol. I. p. 122.

^a Archæol. vol. VII.

^b Phil. Transf. vol. L. p. 109. 115.

^c A bronze lamp, presented by Sir Hans Sloane to the Society of Antiquaries, and other antiquities, were dug up here in the beginning of the last century, but it is not certain that any of them were Roman.

^d Berkshire Queries, in vol. IV. of Bibl. Top. Brit.

Roman Roads and Stations°.—"Berkshire is traversed by ancient roads, or rather pieces of ancient roads, in many different directions, but there is no county in which there is more difficulty to reconcile them to any general theory, or to fix, with precision, the points to which they tend; and whether it is a cause or a consequence of this uncertainty, out of no less than three undoubted Roman towns within the present limits of Berkshire, the site of one only (Spene) has been ascertained, and that not without some difficulty: the name of another (*Bibraſte*) is known, but antiquaries do not agree in its position; and though we are enabled by the remains of the third to fix its situation with much probability, its name is utterly lost.

"The most marked Roman road that goes through any part of Berkshire, is the great road from *Glevum* (Gloucester) to London; nothing can be more decided than this road from Cirencester by Cricklade, *Stratton*, and Wanborough, to its entrance into this county, or more striking than its elevated crest, raised many feet above the downs, in various parts of its course: from Baydon it enters Berkshire, leaving Lambourn and the Sheffords on its left, and Innholmes and Newtown on its right, crosses the turnpike road from Oxford to Hungerford, between the 25th and 26th mile stones, and continues straight, without passing through any village, till it arrives at Wickham; one solitary ale-house, however, known by the name of the Hare and Hounds, stands directly upon it, being a half-way house for the drovers between Spene and Baydon: from Wickham it goes over Wickham Heath, and falls into the modern high road from Bath to London, near the 58th mile stone, in less than a mile after which it must have reached the station of *Spinæ*, or Spene.

"No antiquities have been discovered to fix the exact site of this town; but the name and distance are sufficient to convince us, that it must have been within the parish of Spene; and the neighbouring town of Newbury has probably risen from its ruins: indeed an argument may be brought from the Itineraries, which will reduce this point almost to a demonstration; because the two Roman roads, travelled in the 13th of Antonine and 12th of Richard, one from *Durocornovium*, and the other from *Aquæ Solis*, appear to have met at *Spinæ*, which is confirmed by the course of parts of these roads, visible at the present hour; but it is impossible for two roads going to London, one from Cirencester, and the other from Bath, to have met at any other place than in the parish of Spene, according to the distances assigned in the Itineraries.

"So far we have proceeded with some degree of certainty; but the course of the Roman road from *Spinæ* to London has never yet been ascertained: there are two lines it may have taken; the first towards Silchester, to which it seems to point when last seen, and where it would join the great western Roman road from Old Sarum to London; or it may have continued easterly more in the course of the

* Communicated by the Bishop of Cloyne. See note, p. 25.

present Bath road to Lawrence-Waltham, and crossed the Thames at Bray, which many writers suppose to have been *Bibraete*. I am rather inclined to prefer the former course; and to the objection, that the itinerary distance from *Spinæ* to *Calleva* (if Silchester be *Calleva*) is more than the real distance, it may be answered, that the Roman road might have proceeded some miles in the line of the present turnpike road, till it met the road from Silchester to Streatley, or Wallingford, which falls into it near the village of Thatcham, and this little detour would give the number of miles wanted.

“The Roman road from Silchester to London, above-mentioned, passed in all probability through the south-eastern borders of this county, by Park Lane, *Stanford*, and Finchampstead. Traces of it appear for some miles on Bagshot heath, not far from Wickham Bushes, where it is called the Devil’s Causeway, being raised with a trench on each side of it, and not less than 90 feet wide^d; it seems to bear for Old Windsor or Staines, in a line on the other side of which, on Hounslow heath, it was plainly discovered by General Roy, at the side of our modern western road. It must also be observed, that near the course we suppose this Roman road to have taken, about a quarter of a mile from Bagshot Park, and at the same distance from the cross road leading from Bagshot to Bracknell; in a farm above Heatly Bottom, called Roundabout, Roman pottery has been found, and part of a Roman camp; the same kind of pottery has also been found in great abundance near Wickham Bushes^e: all which tends to confirm the idea, that the great western road to London, in the time of the Romans, passed through or near this part of the county of Berks. By attending carefully to the bearings of the Devil’s Causeway where it is visible, more accurate conjectures may be formed of its course.

“It is yet uncertain whether traces of any Roman road remain between Silchester and Streatley on the Thames^f, between Silchester and Wallingford, and between
Silchester

^d Gough’s Camden, Vol. I. p. 164. This was levelled when the ridings were cut across the heath, and is now called the Devil’s Riding. ^e Archæolog. ut sup.

^f Dr. Beke, professor of modern history at Oxford, in a paper read to the Society of Antiquaries, Feb. 9, 1804, supposes Moulsoford on the Thames, to have been the *Thamesis* of the 18th iter of Richard of Cirencester; from which place he supposes the road to have proceeded through Sotwell and Cholfey, and from thence through Streatley, Pangbourn, Englefield, and Sulhamsted, towards Silchester.

The Professor (as well Mr. Reynolds in his Commentary on the *Iter Britanniarum*) supposes the Roman station of *Calleva* to have been at Coley manor, near Reading; and that the Ikeneld-street crossed the Thames at Moulsoford, and not at Streatley as is commonly supposed. Mr. Coates, in his History of Reading, p. 462, observes upon this conjecture “that there are no traces of a Roman road or vicinal way leading to Reading, nor have any coins or other remains of the Romans been ever discovered there.”

Silchester and Lawrence-Waltham : it is said that there are some traces of the latter to be found near Mr. Palmer's house in the neighbourhood of Wokingham. There is a great bank south of the Kennet, and another as remarkable north of it ; and though the last, which is called the Giant's Causeway, certainly bears towards the ford of the Ikening-Street, over the Thames at Streatley, yet both of them appear to me to have been rather the boundaries of some British tribe, than parts of any Roman road : and it is by no means impossible that the former may be the continuation of Wanfdike, the eastern end of which is unknown.

“ The *Ikening* or *Ikeneld-Street*, whose course we have before traced through Bedfordshire to the borders of this county, enters Berkshire by a ford over the Thames at Streatley, still preserving its old character, with no marks of having been paved or raised ; and here, as in many other places, it divides into two great branches : one of these, under the name of the *Ridgway*, continues on the edge of the high ground by Cuckhamsley, Letcombe, and White-horse hill, into Wiltshire, and this I conceive to be the proper Ikening-Street ; while the other, under the name of the *Wfstridge*, according to Stukeley, goes by Hampstead Hermitage, and the long lane, towards Newbury and Street to Old Sarum^s.

Dr. Beke mentions part of a Roman road from Silchester, passing in a right line almost due east through Stratfield-Mortimer, Stratfield-Say, and Stratfield-Turgin, falling into the great Western-road near Blackwater ; and another on the Berkshire hills called the Old-street way, which may be traced from Wantage to Thatcham, from whence it was probably continued to Silchester. He also mentions “ a remarkable foss, about a mile and a half from Silchester on the north-west, which begins about a quarter of a mile to the south of Ufton church, and runs straight through the whole of the parishes of Ufton, Padworth, and Aldermaston, excepting where interrupted in two or three places by boggy vallies of very small extent. The common people call it *Grimmer's Dike*.”

Mr. Wise has described the course of the Ikeneld-street, or, as it is called in Berkshire, the Ickleton-way, as proceeding from Streatley on the Thames to Blewbury, but is uncertain of its course from hence to Wantage ; “ but immediately after it has passed Wantage, it goes, as he observes, by its true name Ickleton-way, all under the hills (as before, under the Chiltern through Bucks and Oxfordshire) between them and Childrey, Sparsholt, Uffington, and the Whitehorse-hill, leaving Woolston and Compton on the right hand ; thence to Ashbury and Bishopston, pointing towards Abury in Wiltshire.” We have been favoured with the following notice of its course from Wantage to Streatley by Mr. Church, surveyor of Wantage. “ The Ickleton-way has been ploughed up across Wantage Eastfield till it enters Charlton (a hamlet of Wantage), it then passes through West Lockinge. It is lost across Mr. Bastard's park in East Lockinge, but appears again from that park to Ginge brook, in Ardington parish. It passes by White's barn in Sparsholt-Court manor, and is afterwards ploughed up for some way, but appears again, after crossing the Newbury-way, by Wiltshire's and Halve-hill barns, in East Hendred parish ; from thence through the parishes of Harwell, West Hagbourne, and the hamlet of Upton, to the village of Blewbury, and through the parishes of Aston-Tirrold, and Cholsey, to Moulsoford on the Thames, and thence to Streatley ; from Upton to Streatley, it forms part of the new turnpike road from Wantage to Reading.”

“ Another

“ Another very old, and perhaps a Roman road enters the county on its north westerly borders from Wiltshire, under the name of the Port-way, a title common to Roman roads in many parts of the kingdom: it passes near Uffington, Wantage, and Hendred, and seems to point for some spot south of Wallingford. If it crossed the Thames below Wallingford, it may possibly join the road leading from Dorchester to London. Traces of a road from this north part of Berkshire are also visible between Wantage and Thatcham, under the name of the Old Street, from whence it probably proceeded towards Silchester.

“ The only certain *itinerary stations* within the limits of Berkshire, are *Spinæ* and *Bibraſte*. With respect to the first, the resemblance of the name, the bearing of the different roads, the distance and other marks, as I observed before, well known to antiquaries, have led all writers to agree on fixing it at or near Spene; but there is greater difference of opinion in determining on the site of *Bibraſte*. Mr. Whitaker, in p. 43 of the appendix to the first vol. of his History of Manchester, is strenuous for Bray: but Bray must be at least 25 miles from London by the nearest road; and the 12th iter of Richard, from which alone we obtain any notice of this station, places *Bibraſte* at the distance only of 20; nor can I learn that any traces of a Roman road have been discovered either to the W. or E. of the town, or that any coins, or bricks, or other considerable marks of a station, have been dug up on the supposed site of it. We cannot therefore decide on this point till after a more accurate examination: at the same time, we must allow that Bray has as fair a claim as any place in its neighbourhood, (though the distance perhaps might better suit Old Windfor,) to the honour of having been a Roman station.

“ I am not ignorant that a third *itinerary station*, that of *Pontes* mentioned in the 7th iter of Antonine, has been supposed by some antiquaries to be situated in Berkshire, and that Mr. Horsley in particular, whose opinion is always entitled to respect, inclines to place it either at Old Windfor or St. Leonard's hill; but as what has been advanced on this subject is merely conjectural, and the arguments seem in my opinion to be more in favour of Staines, we cannot reckon *Pontes* among the Berkshire stations, its site being on the opposite bank of the Thames, without stronger reasons than have yet been produced.

“ It is an odd circumstance, that while *Spinæ* and *Bibraſte*, which are two acknowledged Roman towns, have no certain remains to identify their situations, there should be another town in the same county, abounding in Roman remains, of whose ancient name we are ignorant: this is Wallingford, which appears to have been of great importance so early as in the time of the Conqueror, where the form of the ramparts, not the castle which is of later date, is pronounced by many judges to be Roman, and where coins of the Emperors Posthumus, Gordianus, &c. have been often found. These circumstances have led all our antiquaries to agree

in fixing a Roman town on its site, and some have given it the name of *Calleva*: but the 7th iter of Antonine, which states *Calleva* to be 44 miles from London and 22 from Winchester, appears decisive against that idea; for Wallingford is at least 46 miles, measured from Hyde Park corner, from the first of these cities, and not less than 35 miles from the other; and it is to be observed, that the sum of the miles in this 7th iter agreeing exactly with the particulars, we are not at liberty to alter any of the numbers: Wallingford therefore seems to have been a Roman town, the name of which has not come down to us.

“There are two banks and ditches running north and south over Greenham heath, and another in the same direction over Mortimer heath, which some have supposed was part of a Roman road towards Streatley or Wallingford.”

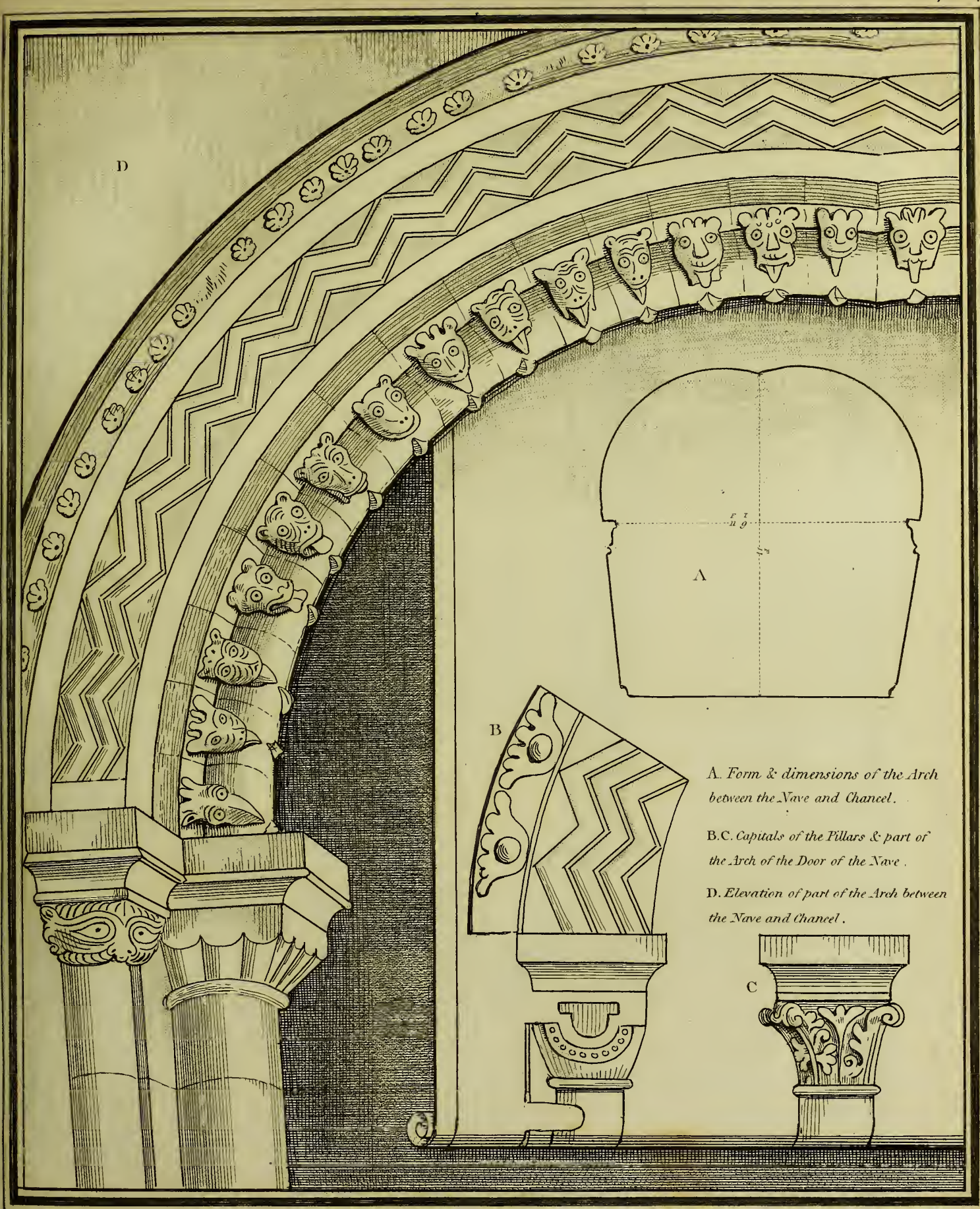
Ancient Church Architecture.—Berkshire affords many specimens of the Saxon architecture, the most remarkable of which is Avington church. This building remains nearly in its original state; it is small and quite plain on the outside; within the walls it measures 75 feet by 14 feet 7 inches. The nave is separated from the chancel by an arch richly ornamented with zig-zag moulding, and a great variety of grotesque heads, springing from two enriched piers, which lean outwards^f; The arch is remarkable, being formed of the segments of two circles having different centres. The chancel appears to have had originally a groined roof of stone, the lower part of some of the groins remain, which are enriched with roses. At the east end are three small round-headed windows.

In the churches of St. Nicholas at Abingdon, Aldermaston, Chaddleworth, Charney^g, Childrey, Cholsey, Hanney, Hatford, North Hinksey, Hurley, Kentbury, Shalbourn, Shaw, Stanford-Dingley, and St. Leonard at Wallingford, and in the ancient chapel of Little Coxwell, are doors with circular arches, and zig-zag and other Saxon mouldings and ornaments. Sunning-hill church is an ancient Saxon building. On the impost moulding of one of the arches of the tower, between the nave and chancel, is an inscription in very ancient characters (see the annexed plate, fig. 2.), which may be read thus: *Undecimo Kalendarum Martii obiit Livingus Presbiter*^h.

^f This appears to have been their original position, since the outside walls are upright; a similar effect may be observed in several of our ancient Saxon churches.

^g There is a rude piece of sculpture in bas-relief on the north wall of this church, which has probably been placed under the arch of a door-way.

^h There are some observations on this inscription in the *Archæologia*, vol. ii. p. 129, by the late Dean Milles, who observes that the style and situation of the inscription shew it to have been rather commemorative than sepulchral; and that the name of *Livingus* occurs frequently as a Saxon proper name, and the Saxon names being disused after the Conquest, makes it probable that this priest lived not long after this period.



A. Form & dimensions of the Arch between the Nave and Chancel.

B.C. Capitals of the Pillars & part of the Arch of the Door of the Nave.

D. Elevation of part of the Arch between the Nave and Chancel.

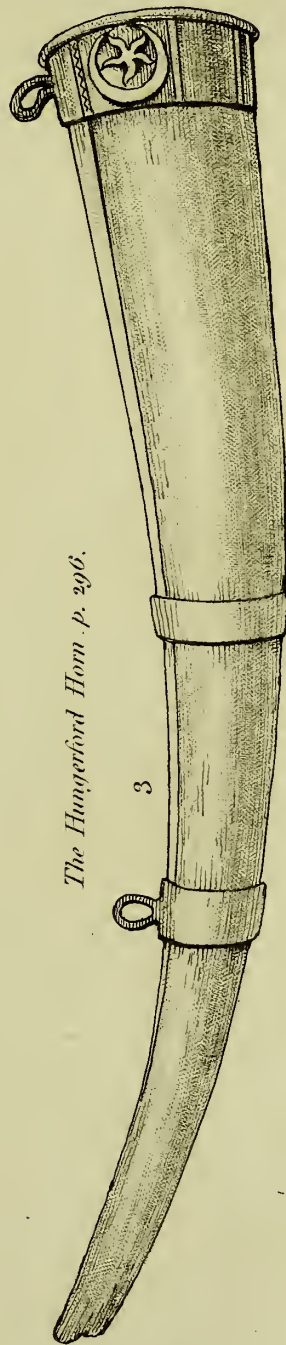
Inscription in the Chancel of Woolhampton Church.

21

PRESBIT

Inscription in Sunning hill Church.

The Hungerford Horn. p. 296.



3

4



4

Inscription on the Hungerford Horn.



Fig. 1.



Capitals of Pillars between the Nave & Chancel.

Fig. 2.

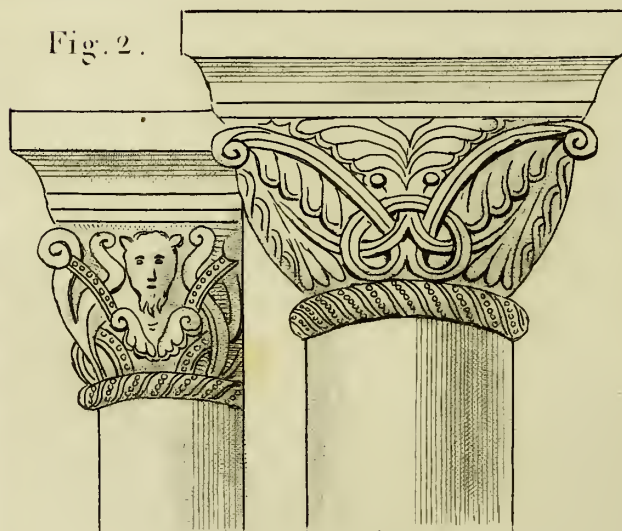
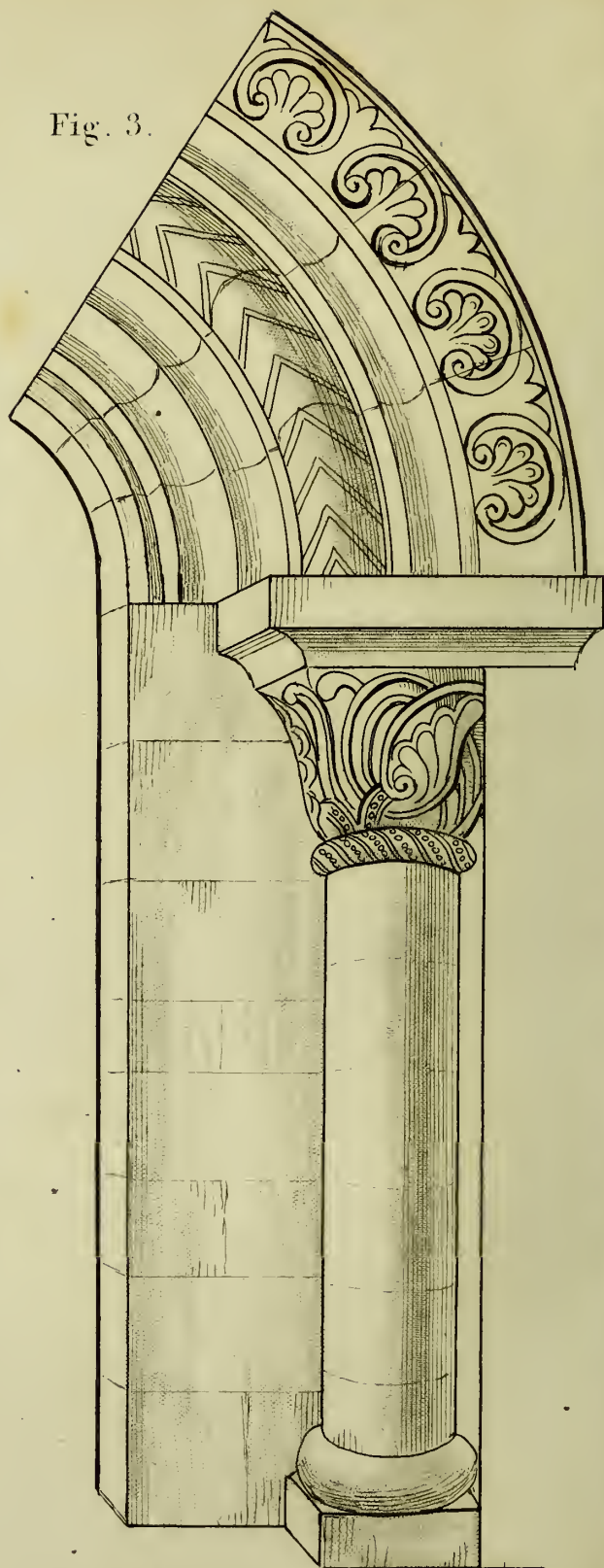


Fig. 3.

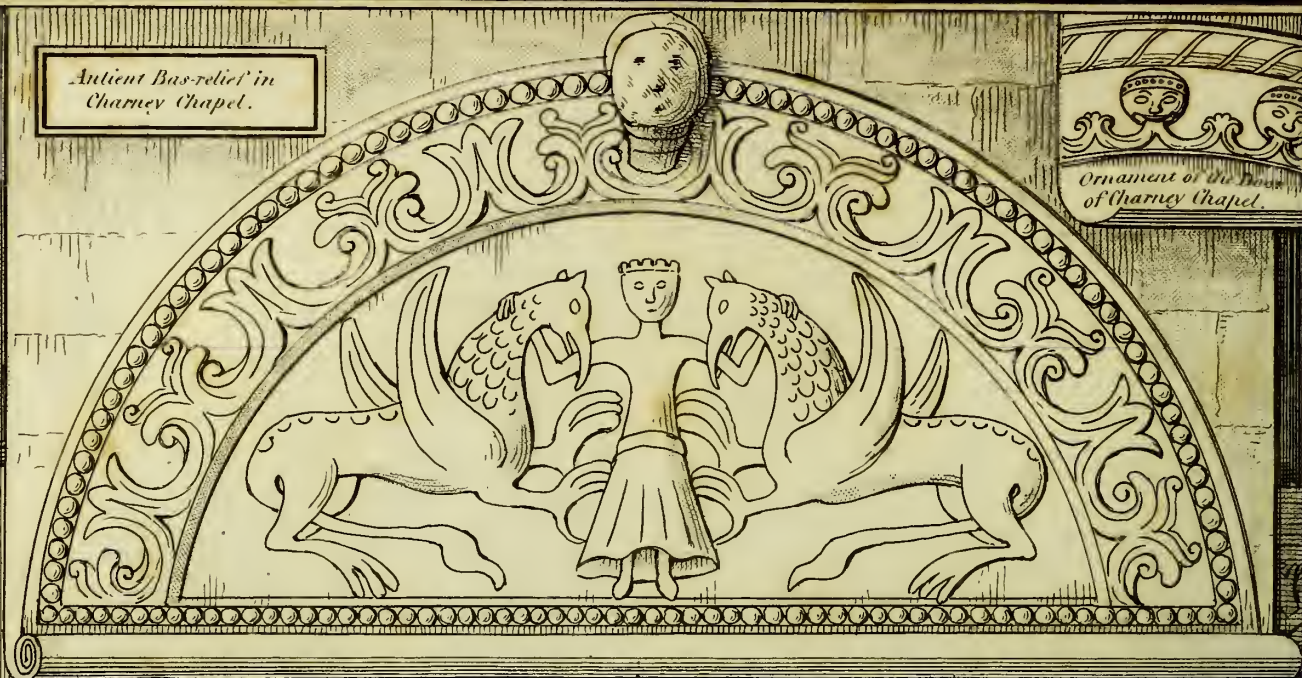


Part of the Door-way on the south side of the Nave.



*Ancient Bas-relief in
Charney Chapel.*

*Ornament of the Door
of Charney Chapel.*

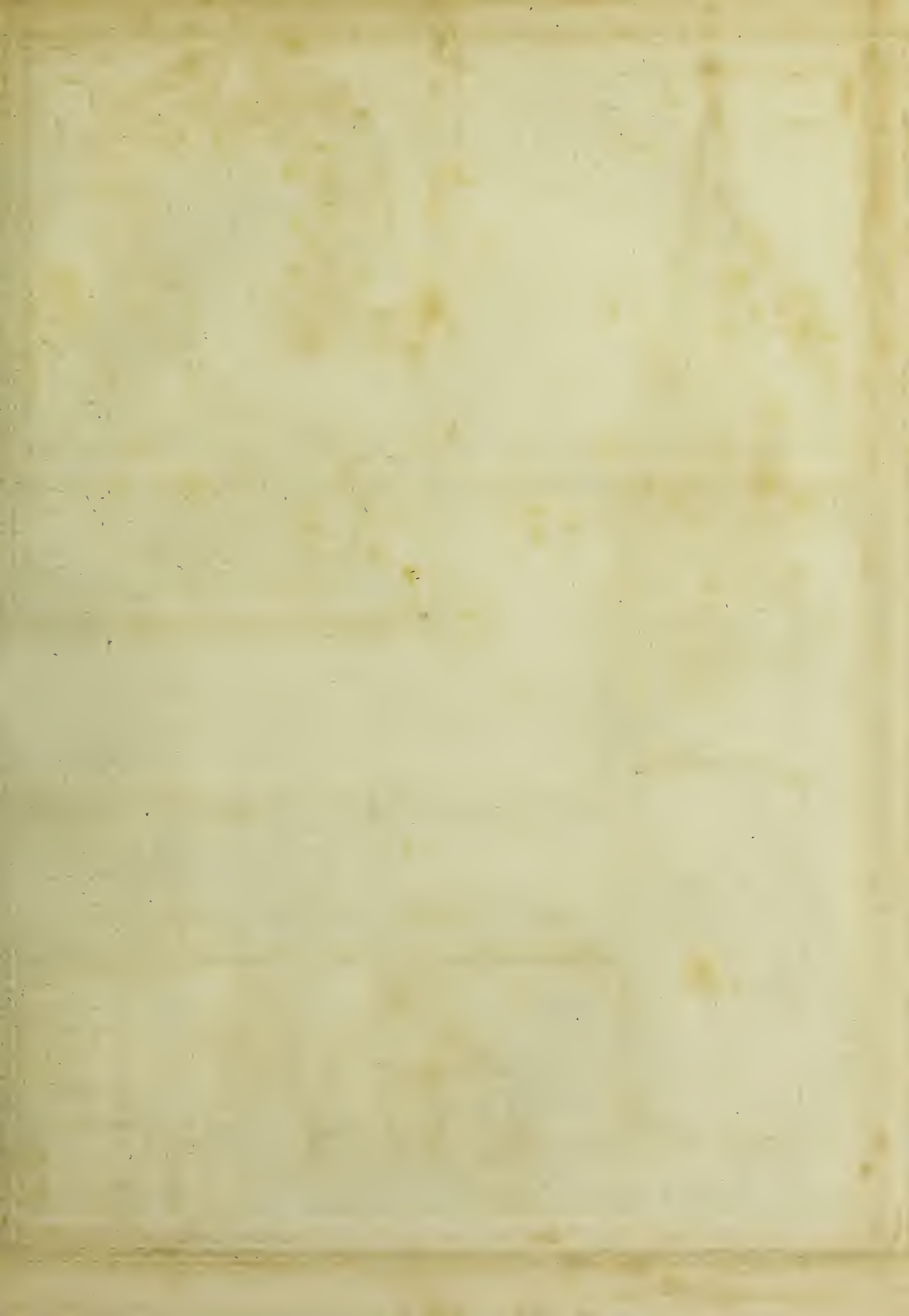


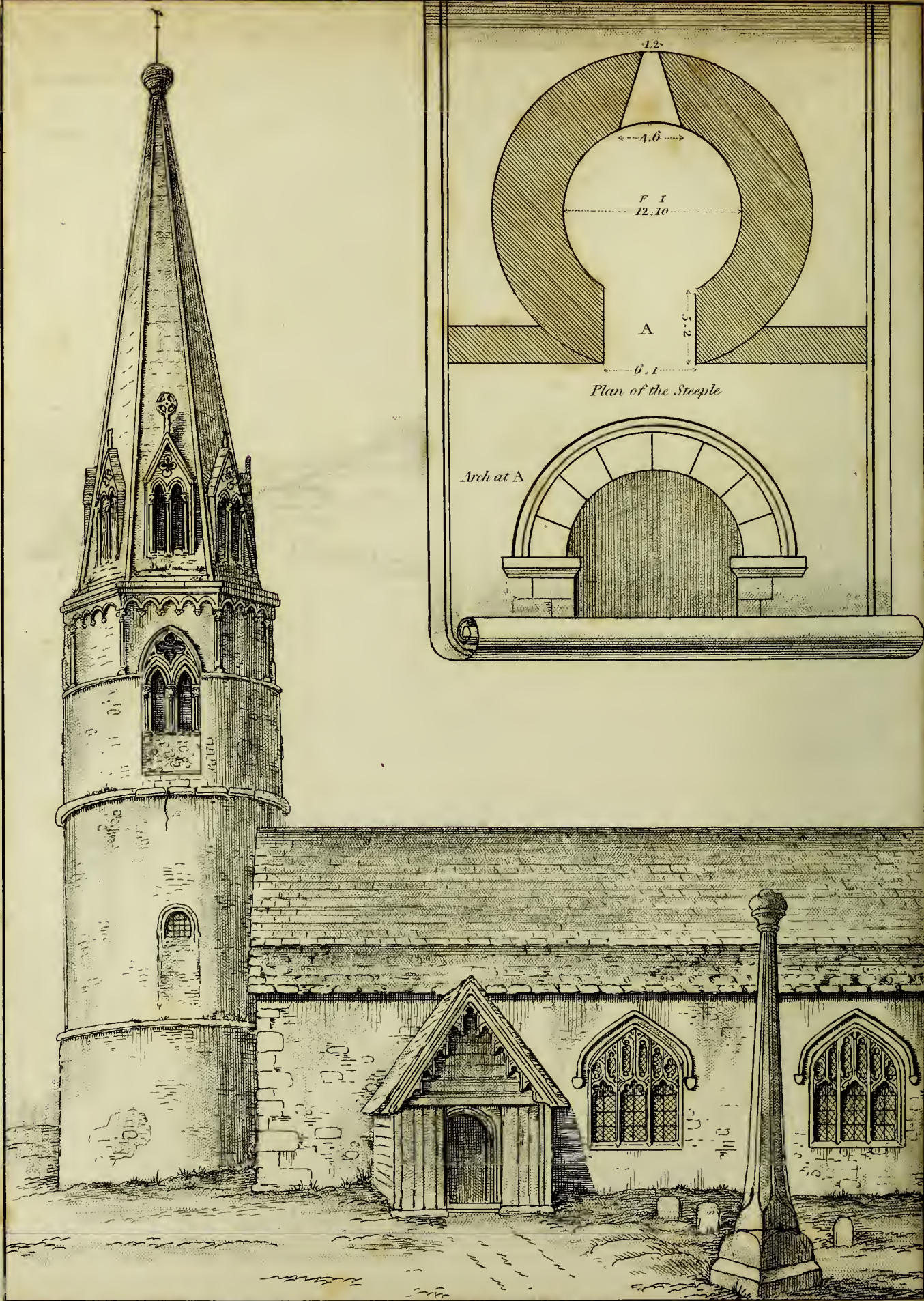
*Door-way of
BUCKLEBURY CHURCH.*



*Door-way of
THATCHAM
CHURCH.*



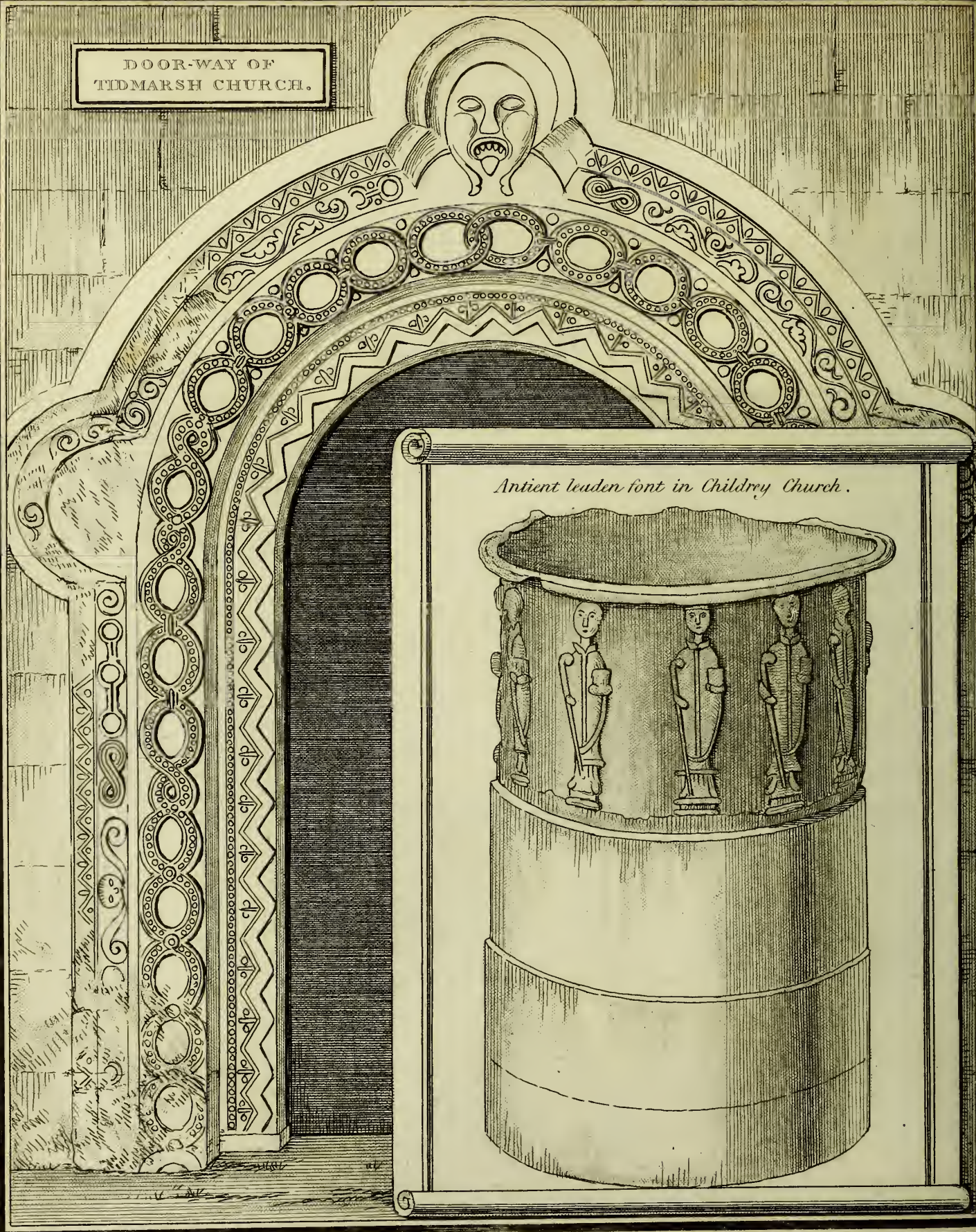




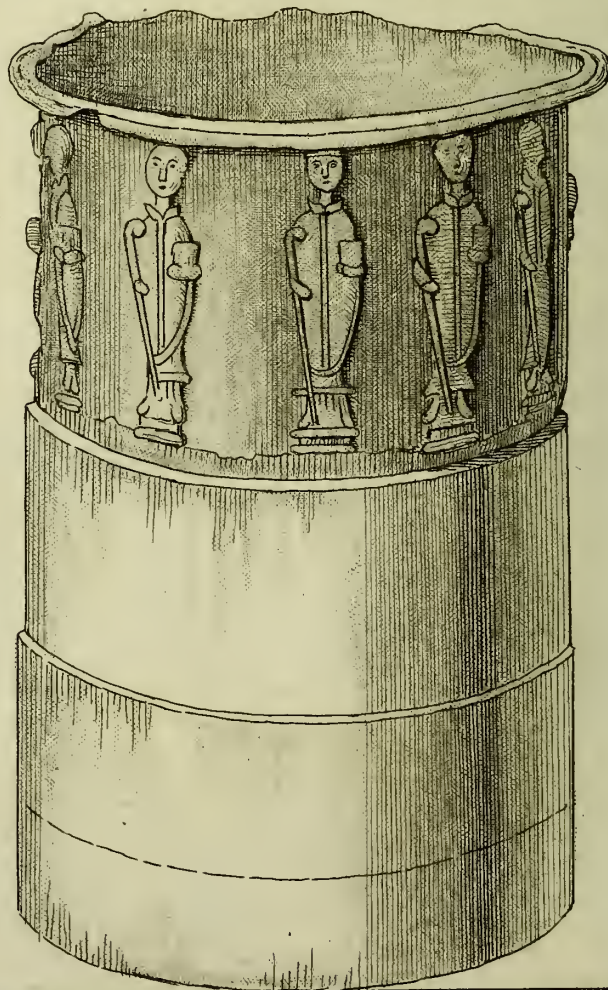
WELFORD CHURCH.



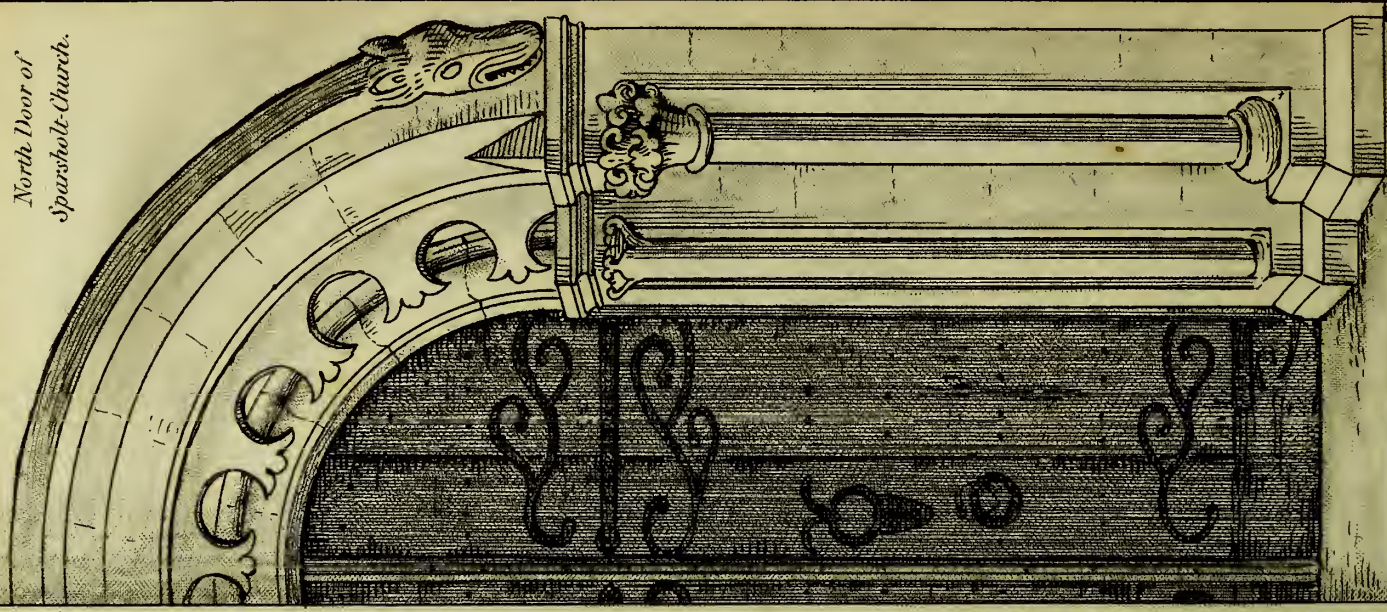
DOOR-WAY OF
TIDMARSH CHURCH.



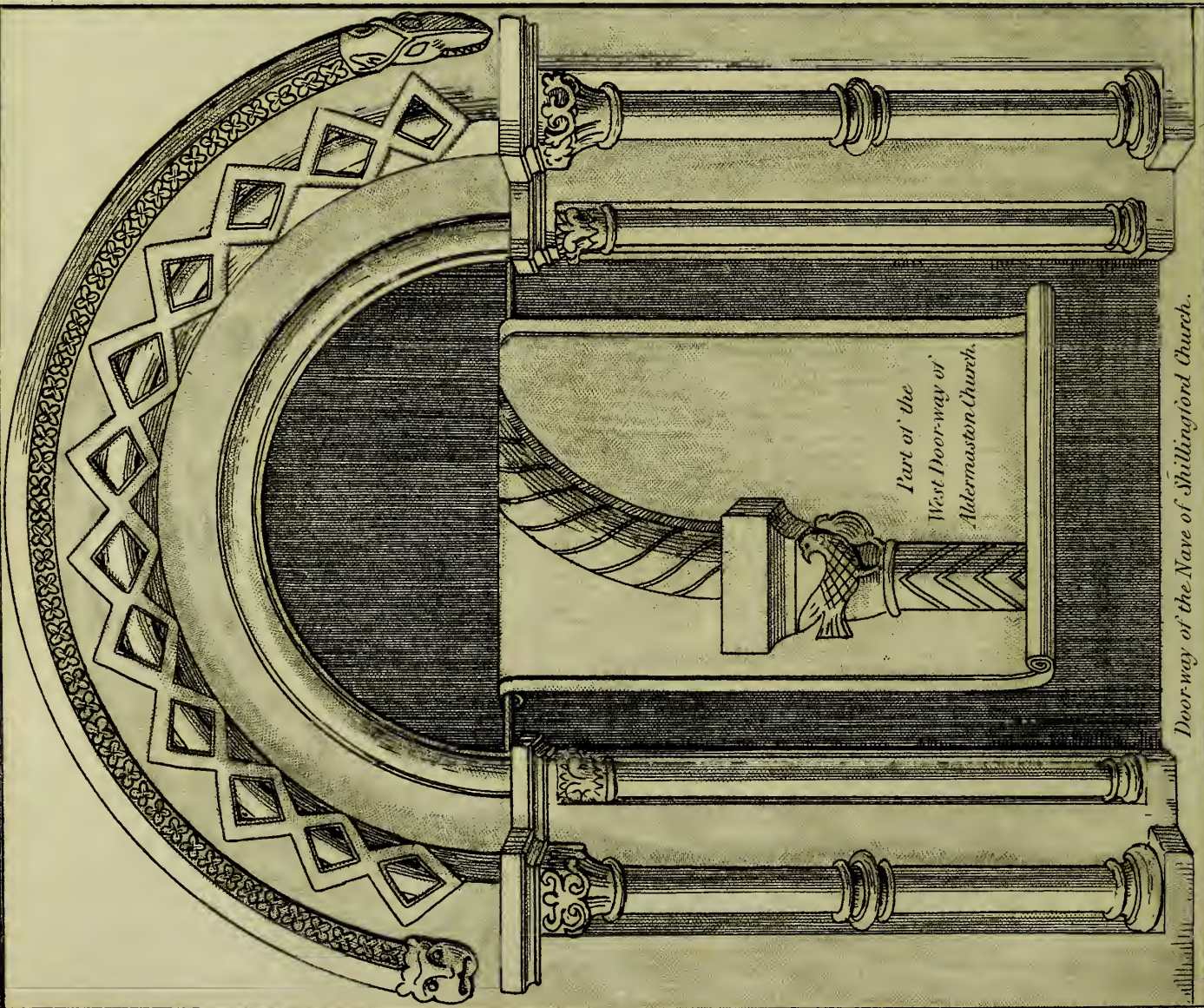
Ancient leaden font in Childrey Church.



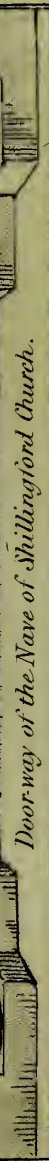
North Door of
Sparsholt-Church.



Part of the
West Door-way of
Aldermaston Church.



Door-way of the Nave of Shillingford Church.



The nave of Windfor church may be classed among the specimens of Saxon architecture in this county; the arches are circular and the columns massive, with Saxon ornaments. The churches of Padworth, Bucklebury, Thatcham, and Tidmarsh, exhibit considerable remains of the more enriched Saxon architecture, wherein we see massive pillars and circular arches enriched with a profusion of ornaments; among which many of those used by the Romans may be distinguished. The Chancels of Padworth, Finchampstead and Remenham churches are semi-circular at the east end; that of Tidmarsh terminates in the half of an hexagon. The door of the school-house at Wantage, formerly a chapel, has a circular arch enriched with spiral mouldings and grotesque heads.

The doors of Sparsholt, Shillingford, and Lambourn churches, have circular arches with some of the Saxon ornaments, and slender shafts on each side, in the style of the early Gothic architecture, after the introduction of which it is probable that these works were executed.

Great Shefford and Welford churches having circular towers at the west end, with small round-headed windows, may be classed with the Saxon buildings; an octangular story has been added to the former, and a Gothic spire to the latter. In Sutton-Courtney church, some of the arches which are slightly pointed have the zig-zag and other Saxon mouldings; the capitals of the pillars, and the windows of the tower, are also in the Saxon style.

The churches of Uffington, Englefield, and Faringdon, and the chapel at Little Faringdon, exhibit some striking specimens of the early Gothic. Uffington church is large and handsome, in the form of a cross, and retains much of its original architecture; the windows are lancet-shaped, with slender detached pillars. Englefield church has massive columns between the north and south aisle, the capitals of which are ornamented with flowers, &c. The arches are pointed; the window at the east end of the south aisle is remarkably elegant, having three lancet-shaped lights, between which are slender detached pillars; some parts of this window are enriched with flowers^b. The chancel of Faringdon church has small lancet-shaped windows; the nave has circular arches and massive columns, the capitals of which are enriched with flowers; the tower is supported by large clustered columns and pointed arches. Beeton and Cheveley churches have also narrow pointed windows with slender pillars. Welford church has considerable remains of the early Gothic style in the chancel, and in the elegant spire, which has been engrafted on the more ancient circular tower at the west end. Some

^b These flowers of four petals are a prevailing embellishment of the early Gothic architecture; they are frequently placed within deep hollow mouldings, when they produce a very rich effect.

remains of this style are also to be seen in three arches behind the altar, and on the south side of the cloister in St. George's chapel at Windsor, being part of the building erected there by King Henry the Third, in the 27th year of his reign.

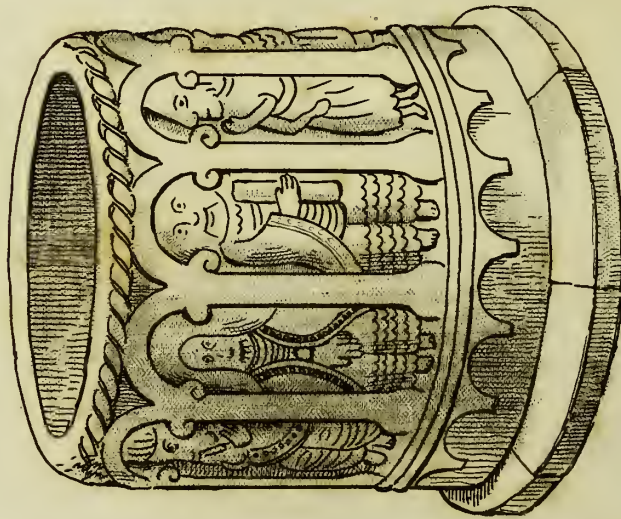
This county exhibits very few good examples of the Gothic architecture of the fourteenth century. The church of Shottesbrook, which was built about the year 1337 by Sir William Trussel, is in the form of a cross, with a plain spire in the centre. The upper part of the east window of the chancel is elegantly ramified; as is also that of Warfield, which appears to be of about the same age. The arches against the north and south walls of Aldworth church, over the tombs of the De la Beches, are much enriched with quatrefoils, roses, crockets, &c. in the prevailing taste of the reign of King Edward the Third.

The only example of any consequence in Berkshire, of the latter style of Gothic architecture, is St. George's chapel at Windsor, unquestionably one of the most complete and splendid now existing: every part of it appears to have been finished with the utmost care, and it is in a state of the most perfect preservation. The vaulted roof of this edifice, and indeed every part of the inside, is enriched with a great profusion of tracery, including an infinite variety of devices. It was begun by King Edward the Fourth, under the superintendence of Richard Beauchamp, Bishop of Salisbury, but was not finished till the reign of King Henry the Eighth. After the death of Bishop Beauchamp in 1482, Sir Reginald Bray, prime minister to King Henry the Seventh, had the chief management of the building; and it is supposed that this magnificent fabric is as much indebted to the good taste of that statesman for its beautiful decorations, as its completion was assisted by the liberality of his pecuniary contributions.

Ancient stained Glafs.—In the east window of the chancel of Warfield and of Shottesbrook churches, there are considerable remains of stained glass in the upper compartments, apparently coeval with the buildings, which are in the style of the fourteenth century. In great Shefford and Childrey churches there are some remains, but of no great consequence. The great west window of St. George's chapel at Windsor is filled with ancient stained glass, consisting of a great variety of single figures of saints, coats of arms, &c. collected from the different windows of the chapel, and put together under the direction of Dr. Lockman, Dean of Windsor in 1774.

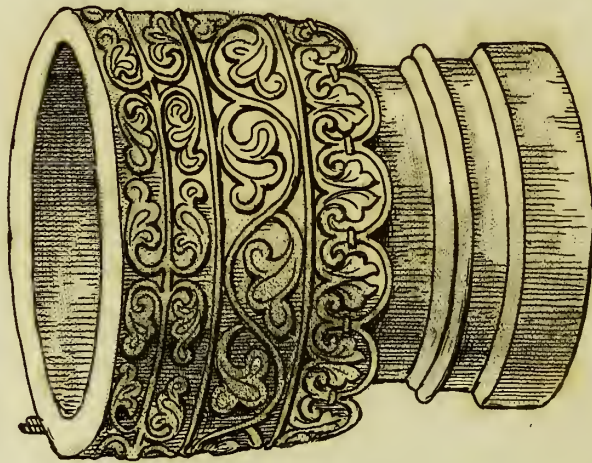
Rood-Lofts, Gothic Niches, &c.—In Marcham and Sutton-Courtney churches there are wooden rood-lofts. In Great Shefford church, near the north door, is a niche richly

1



Avington.

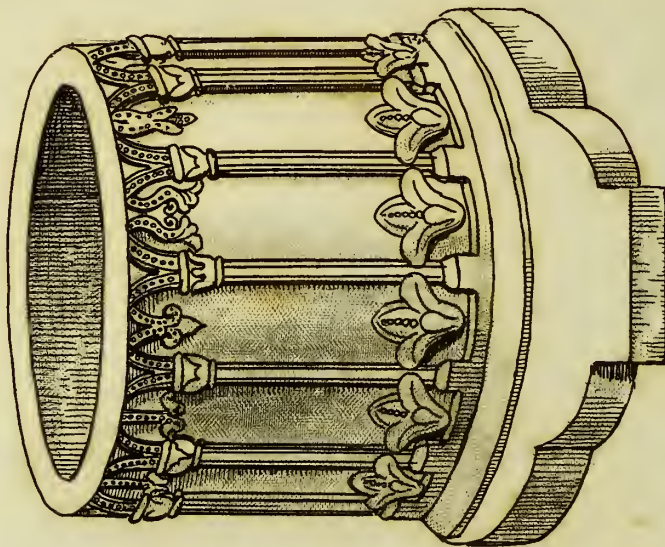
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Great Shefford.

4

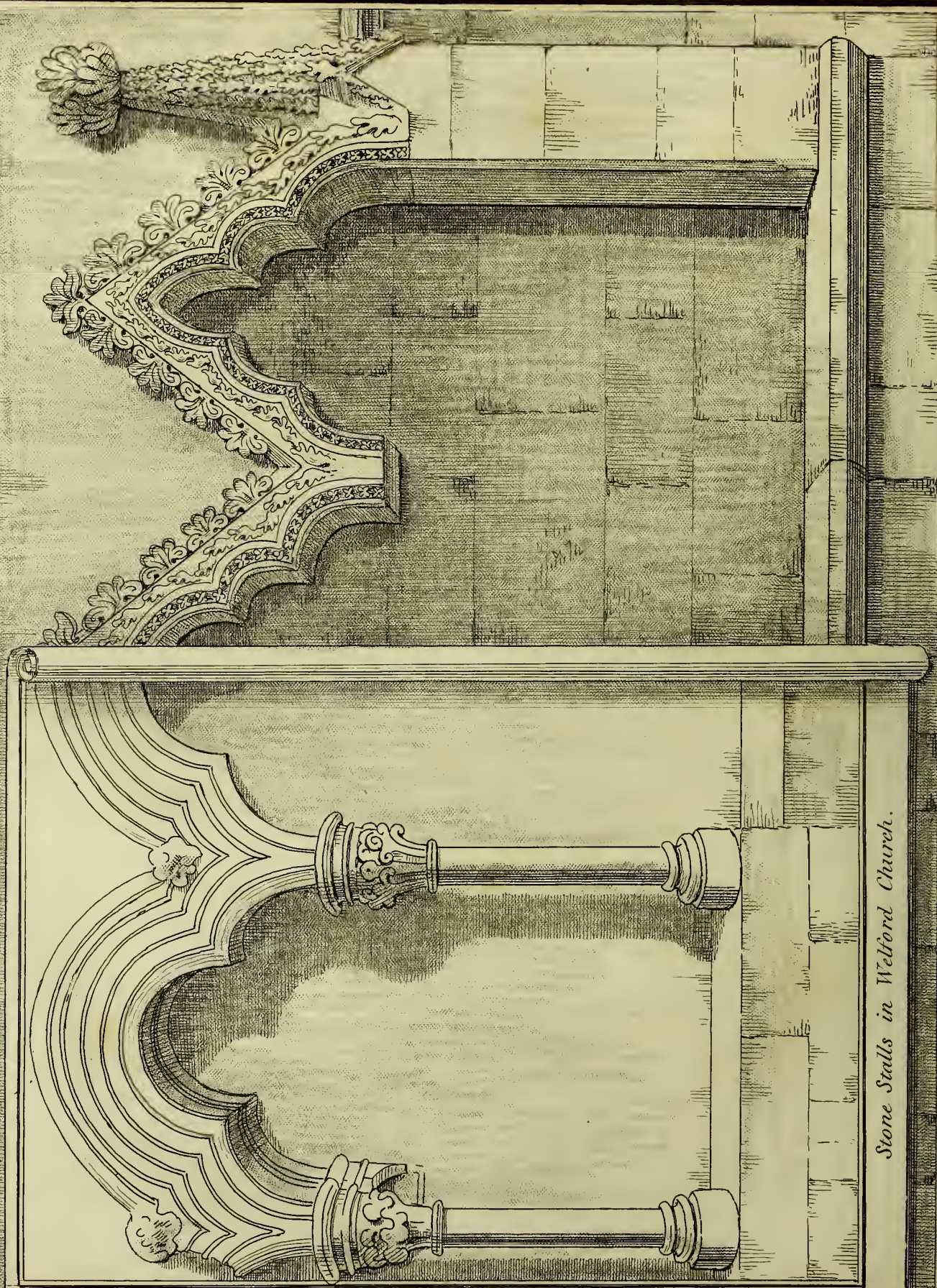
3



Sutton Courtney.



Figures on Avington Font?



STONE STALLS IN FARINGDON CHURCH.

richly ornamented with pinnacles, &c. In Fifield, over the altar, a rich border of foliage in stone-work; in the centre, a niche for an image, with open arches and rich Gothic canopies.

Fonts.—Most of the ancient fonts in this county are circular; several of them which are of this form are variously ornamented. Avington is surrounded with grotesque figures rudely executed in bas-relief; Clewer, Enborne, and Sulhamsted-Abbots, with circular arches and a zig-zag moulding; Bright-Walton, with circular interlaced arches; Woolhampton, with plain circular arches, in one of which is a rude figure in bas-relief holding a key in his right hand and a book in his left: Purley has a zig-zag moulding with grotesque heads, and round interlaced arches; Great Shefford has rich scrolls of foliage, in the style of the enriched Saxon architecture: Sutton-Courtney is surrounded with Saxon arches and pillars, between which are flowers and foliage; Finchampsted, with beaded and plain mouldings; Welford, with circular interlaced arches resting on pillars in the early Gothic style: Childrey is of lead, and evidently very ancient, having the figure of an abbot several times repeated. Englefield is in the early Gothic style, with trefoil arches, and roses. The font at Shottesbrook is octangular, with Gothic arches, enriched with crockets, pinnacles, &c.; that at Hurley is also octangular, and ornamented with Gothic tracery. Most of the other fonts in this county are little ornamented and unworthy of notice.

Stone Stalls and Piscinae.—The most remarkable stone stalls in the Berkshire churches are in those of Faringdon, Welford, Uffington, Sparsholt, and Warfield. The three first are probably of the age of King Henry the Third, and coeval with the churches, which are of the earliest style of Gothic architecture.

The stone stalls at Faringdon are three in number, and of equal height; the piers or pillars by which they were separated, are gone; a *piscina* with a plain trefoil arch, is attached to them at the east end. Those in Welford church are also three in number, one of them higher than the other two; they are separated by detached pillars, having plain bases and capitals enriched with foliage. In Uffington church are three stone stalls of unequal heights, with a *piscina* adjoining; they much resemble those at Welford, except that the capitals of the pillars are plain, and the arches more pointed.

Those in Warfield and Sparsholt churches are in the more enriched style of the 14th century. The former are three in number and of equal height, with a *piscina* adjoining. In Sparsholt church are three stone stalls and a *piscina*, uniform and richly ornamented with trefoils, crockets, finials, and pinnacles; the stalls are separated

separated by detached pillars, with plain capitals and bases. The three stone stalls in Shottesbrook church, with a *piscina* adjoining, are plain with trefoil arches, and coëval with the church, which was built about the year 1337. In Childrey church are three of equal height, with plain trefoil arches; the same number in Fifield church, with a *piscina*. Aldworth, Steventon, Tidmarsh, and Harwell churches have two stone stalls in each. Adjoining to those at Harwell is a *piscina*. In Avington church there is a single seat, with a plain circular arch and a *piscina*. In Compton-Beauchamp is one long stone seat with an arm on each side; and there is a *piscina*, the body of which is detached from the wall. In Eaton-Hastings is one stone seat with a plain pointed arch.

Ancient Tombs.—In the chancel of Woolhampton church there is the following inscription round a blue slab:—“*Hic jacet Ricardus de Herclond Rector hujus loci conditor cancelli.*” From the form of the windows of the chapel, which are narrow and lancet-shaped, and also from that of the letters of the inscription, it seems to be of the thirteenth century¹.

There are many rich examples in this county of the tombs of the fourteenth century; being, for the most part, those of Crusaders, under ogee arches, variously decorated. The most remarkable are those in Aldworth church, where are to be seen no fewer than eight altar tombs, with the effigies of the deceased: six of these are arranged under arches, against the north and south walls of the church; the two others under the arches between the nave and south aisle. The arches in the north aisle are the most perfect; they are richly ornamented with trefoils, roses, crockets, pinnacles, &c. In the south aisle, the first tomb from the east end has the effigies of a man in plated armour, with surcoat, drawing his sword: he appears to have been cross-legged; but the legs and left hand are broken off. The second tomb from the east end has the effigies of a female, in a long loose robe, with her left hand on her breast; the right hand is gone. There are the remains of figures of angels supporting her pillow. The third tomb, in this aisle, has the mutilated figure of a man, who appears to have been habited in a coat which reaches below the knees: the hands have been joined in prayer.

The effigies on the altar tombs under the three arches, on the north side of the church, are all of Crusaders. The first from the east end is in plated armour, a good deal ornamented, with a surcoat. This figure is much mutilated. The head is raised, being supported by the right hand. The second figure, under the central arch of the north aisle, appears to be of Totternhoe stone: it is a good deal mutilated: his right hand is on his breast, the left on the handle of his sword: on his

¹ See plate, page 204, fig. 1.

left arm is a shield. He has a head-piece and gorget of mail, with a furcoat. This figure is six feet four inches in length, and the last-mentioned figure seven feet two inches. Those on the other tombs in this church do not appear, when perfect, to have exceeded the common size, though they have been often described as of gigantic proportions. The figure at the west end of the north aisle, which is in plated armour, with a furcoat, is much mutilated. Between the nave and south aisle, under the arch next to the chancel, on a large altar tomb, are the figures of a knight and his lady, much mutilated: he appears in plated armour, with a furcoat, having a dog under each leg, and a lion at his feet; under his head is a helmet. The head of the lady is broken off: she has a dog at her feet. This appears to have been the tomb of Nicholas Lord De la Becheⁱ. Under the next arch is the mutilated figure of a knight, in plated armour and furcoat. All these tombs in Aldworth church have been commonly supposed to be of the family of De la Beche; if they were so, it is probable that Nicholas Lord De la Beche, who built the church, erected some of them in memory of his ancestors, who had not actually been buried at that place, since their number seems too great for the successive possessors of Aldworth, who were of the De la Beche family.

In the chancel of Sparsholt church there is an altar tomb, ornamented with tracery and shields, on which is the effigies of a Crusader, under an ogee arch, richly ornamented with trefoils, crockets, &c.; a similar tomb and arch are on the opposite side of the chancel, without any effigies. In the south transept of the same church, under the south window, are two altar tombs, on each of which is the effigies of a lady, carved in wood, in a long robe, with veil and wimple, and angels supporting the pillow. At the feet of one of the figures are two dogs, and of the other a lioness: the side of one of these tombs is ornamented with nine figures of armed knights, in different attitudes, under arches enriched with foliage; they appear to be coëval with the transept in which they stand. In the same place is the mutilated figure of a knight, carved in wood, resting on a slab of stone on the floor: he is in plated armour and furcoat, having a lion at his feet.

Under the north window of the north transept of Childrey church, beneath an ogee arch, ornamented with trefoils, flowers, and crockets, lies the effigies of a crusader, carved in stone, in mail and furcoat, in the act of drawing his sword, having a lion at his feet: a similar figure is to be seen under an obtuse arch, in the south wall of the south aisle of Englefield church, undoubtedly designed for one of the ancient family of Englefield. In the same place, under a similar arch, is the effigies of a lady, carved in wood, in the dress of the early part of the fourteenth century: it appears formerly to have been painted.

ⁱ See the account of Aldworth, in the Parochial Topography.

There is the figure of a crusader, carved in wood, under an ogee arch, in Burghfield church. At Inkpen, also, is a tomb with the effigies of a crusader : and at Bafilden, in the south wall of the chancel, on the outside, an arch, richly ornamented with trefoils, pinnacles, and Gothic tracery, under which formerly lay a mutilated figure of the founder : it is now walled up.

In Childrey church, on the north side of the chancel, is an altar tomb, under a rich Gothic canopy, having an ogee arch, beneath which is an obtuse one, ornamented with trefoils, crockets, &c. and in the spandrils with oak leaves, acorns, and animals. Over these are two rows of small arches of tracery, formerly enriched with pinnacles.

In Shillingford church, in the north window of the chancel, is an altar tomb for John de Blewbury, a priest, who died in 1372, with a slab of Purbeck marble, formerly enriched with brasses, which, from the traces that remain, appear to have consisted of the figure of the deceased, under a rich Gothic canopy, with his arms : over the tomb is the pointed arch of the window, ornamented on the sides with quartrefoils and roses. At the north end of the north transept of Shottesbrooke church is the tomb of Sir William Trussel, who founded the college at that place in 1337, and his lady. It is ornamented with Gothic tracery of trefoils : over the tomb are canopies, very richly ornamented with trefoils, crockets, pinnacles, and shields : the inside of the canopies is also richly ornamented with tracery.

In the south transept of Cumner church are two pointed arches, under which are tombs, with crosses *florées*, said to have been for some of the abbots of Abingdon. At Hatford is the tomb of the founder, with his effigies, in a tunic, holding a heart in his hand, with a hound at his feet. In Wantage church is an altar tomb, with the effigies of one of the Fitzwarren family, of the order of the Garter^k.

On the north side of the altar, in St. George's chapel, at Windsor, is the tomb of King Edward the Fourth, being a large slab of touchstone, over which is erected an open screen, highly enriched with Gothic tabernacle work of iron, gilt^l. The vault, containing the royal corpse, was opened in the year 1789, when the skeleton was found in a plain leaden coffin^m.

In Fyfield church there is an altar tomb for Sir John Golafre, who died in 1442,

^k See the account of Wantage in the Parochial Topography. ^l This screen is engraved in Sandford's Genealog. Hist. p. 391. 1st edit. It has been usually described as of steel, and sometimes of brass gilt. Dr. Lind, who has carefully examined it with Mr. Davis, his Majesty's blacksmith at Windsor, and obligingly communicated to us the result of this examination, says, "that the frame is of worked bar-iron, and the small rich Gothic compartments of plate-iron, cut with a stamp-punch. The whole of this work appears to have been executed in the most simple manner possible, and put together with similar simplicity." ^m See an account of this discovery, communicated to the Society of Antiquaries by the Bishop of Salisbury. Monum. Vetust. Vol. III. Pl. VII.



A. Cooper del. & J. G. Smith sculp.

PART OF THE REMAINS OF ABINGDON ABBEY.

with his effigies in armour, underneath which is the figure of a skeleton in a shroud. In the same church is also an altar tomb of a Lady Gordon, who died about 1527. Over it is a flat arch, the whole being richly ornamented with gilded tracery, on a blue ground. There is a rich Gothic monument of the same form, in Englefield church, for Sir Thomas Englefield, Speaker of the House of Commons, and Justice of Chester, who died in 1513.

Of slabs and monuments, inlaid with brasses, in this county, the following are the most remarkable:—Several in Childrey church, for the family of Kingston, partly of brass, and partly of lead. The altar tomb of John Isbury, in the chantry, founded by him in Lambourn church, has a brass of him on the top, and arms round the sides, some parts of which are enamelled. There is a brass of Sir Ivo Fitzwarren, at Wantage, now placed against the wall of the church; in the Rutland chapel, in St. George's chapel at Windfor, a very rich brass plate, gilt and enamelled, against the wall, containing the figures of Anne Duchefs of Exeter, sister of King Edward IV. and her second husband, Sir Thomas St. Leger, knt. each in a kneeling posture. The Duchefs died in the year 1475.

Monastic Remains.—Of the magnificent abbey, built by Henry I. at Reading, little more than rude heaps of stones are now to be seen; the walls have been nearly stripped of all architectural decorations. The crypt of the great hall remains in this state. In a garden, now occupied by Mrs. Bellafyfe, are the walls of a large room, belonging to the abbey; in the upper part of which are some circular arches, coëval with the original building. The Abbey Mills, which are still remaining, exhibit also several Saxon arches. The gateway of the abbey is not of very ancient date. At Reading are considerable remains of the church of the Grey Friars, now converted into a Bridewell; the columns of the nave are clustered; the roof is gone. The great west window, and the columns, are in the style of the thirteenth century.

There are no remains of the abbey church at Abingdon. Among the buildings now occupied as a brewery by the proprietor, Mr. Child, are some ancient rooms belonging to the monastery, supported by vaults with groined roofs, resting on short pillars. Two of these rooms, each 34 feet by 14, have two large openings in the wall by which they are separated; the door-way has a pointed arch. In one of them there is a fire-place, which has had slender pillars on either side, with octagonal shafts, and capitals of foliage, in the style of Henry the Third's reign (figured in the annexed plate): one of the shafts is gone. The windows of these rooms are evidently of a more modern date. The gateway of the abbey, which is not of very ancient date, is now used as a prison.

At Hurley there are some remains of the Benedictine monastery, founded by Geffrey de Mandeville: the circular door-way, with zig-zag ornaments, at the west

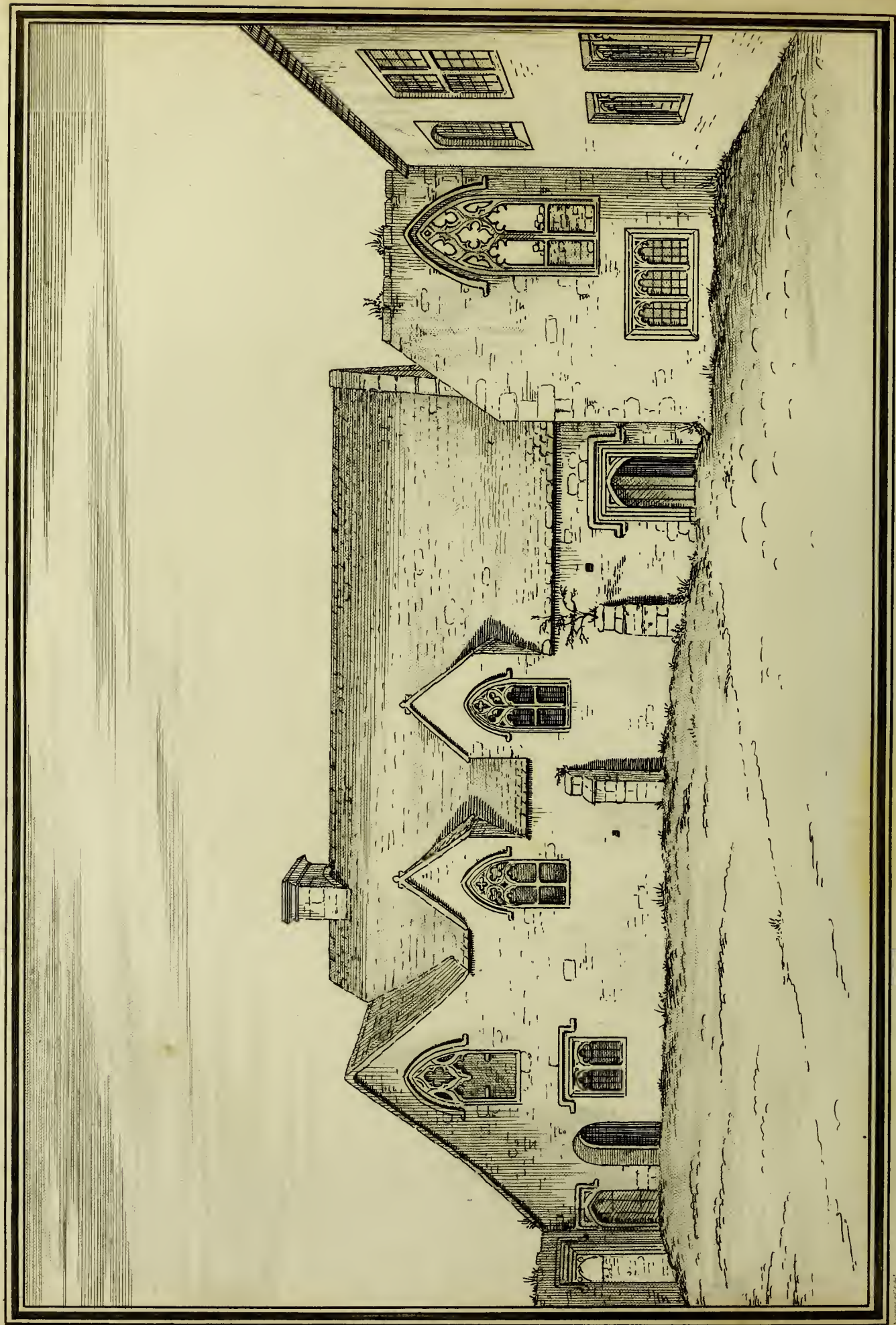
end of the parish church, formerly the chapel of the convent, was, it is probable, a part of the original structure, which was dedicated in 1086. The refectory has been converted into stables, which retain the ancient pointed arches of the windows.

An ancient pointed door-way, which now forms one of the entrances to the seat of George Vanfittart esq. is the only vestige of the conventual buildings at Bisham. There are no remains of Bromhale nunnery, nor of the priories of Poghly, Sandleford, or Wallingford. The collegiate church also, at Wallingford, has been wholly destroyed: some of the buildings belonging to the priest and clerks remain. The parish church of Shottesbrooke belonged to the college at that place, and was built by the founder, Sir William Trussell: there are no remains of the college. The college of St. George at Windsor, which has flourished for many centuries under the auspices of Royal Patronage, has been already spoken of, and will be more particularly described in the account of that town.

Castles and Sites of Castles.—First in the rank of castles, both in point of antiquity and consequence, is Windsor castle, originally built by William the Conqueror, enlarged and improved from time to time, by succeeding monarchs, as will be found more particularly mentioned under the head of Windsor, in the parochial topography, and still retaining its ancient magnificence. Of Wallingford, formerly a building of great extent and consequence, nothing more than the fragment of a wall remains, except the ditches and earth-works, which are of large extent. Of Donnington castle, nothing appears but the ruins of the gate, consisting of two towers. The sites of the castles of Faringdon, Newbury, Reading, and Brightwell, are unknown. Scarcely a vestige remains of that of the De la Beches, at Aldworth: a farm-house at present occupies the site of it, where several foundations of walls, built with flints, have lately been dug up.

Ancient Mansion-houses.—The most remarkable private mansion in this county, in point of antiquity, is the manor-house at Appleton. This building stands near the church, and is surrounded with a moat. The principal entrance is through a door-way, having a circular arch with various plain mouldings, and several small pillars on each side, with capitals of foliage: this door-way leads into a passage, at the end of which was formerly a similar one; and on one side of the passage are two plain door-ways with circular arches. The other parts of the building have been altered from their original form. It is probable, from the style of the principal door-way, that it is as ancient as the reign of King Henry II. which is the more remarkable, as it does not appear that this building ever formed any part of a religious house.

Witham house is an irregular embattled building, having a tower in the centre of the east front, under which is the principal entrance by a bridge over a
moat



WEST SIDE OF THE QUADRANGLE OF CUNNER PLACE.

moat. It was built in the beginning of the reign of King Henry VII. by Sir Richard Harcourt, who became possessed of the manor of Witham in 1480. Some alterations appear, from the form of the windows, to have been made in the reign of Queen Elizabeth or James I. ^a

Cumner-place, which was one of the country-seats of the abbots of Abingdon, having been the rectorial house reserved in the hands of the abbot, stands on the west side of the church-yard. It is built round a quadrangle, and retains nearly its original form. The hall, now used as a granary, and the chapel occupy the west side of the quadrangle, and from the style of the windows seem to have been built as early as the fourteenth century. Several alterations appear to have been made by Anthony Forster, the first grantee of the estate after the dissolution of the monastery. The initials of his name, with the date 1571, appear over a door-case in the hall. Part of the building is now converted into a farm-house.

The rectorial house of Sutton-Courtney, which also belonged to the abbots of Abingdon, is still standing, and the seat of Francis Justice esq. Some parts of it have been altered; but several of the original windows remain, which appear to be of nearly the same age as the oldest part of Cumner-place.

At Little-Shefford is an ancient uninhabited mansion-house, in the style of the buildings of King Henry the Eighth's reign; the hall of which is now used as a barn.

Ockholt manor-house, an ancient seat of the Norreys family, now a farm house, appears to have been built before the Reformation. In the hall is a large bay-window, filled with coats of arms, which appear coëval with the building; among them are those of the Abbey of Abingdon and of the Norreys, with their motto, "Feythfully serve," frequently repeated.

Camps and Earth Works.—This county having been frequently the scene of military operations in remote times, exhibits the remains of many ancient camps. It is not an easy matter to determine by what people they have all been formed: it is probable, however, that those of an irregular shape, upon the Downs, as Letcombe and Uffington castles, both in very commanding situations, were originally British, and afterwards used by the Romans. The former, which is almost circular, has a double vallum, and incloses an area of nearly 26 acres: there is an entrance on the east side. The entrenchments and ditches of this camp contain eight acres and a half. Uffington castle, a large camp on the White-Horse Hill, just above the village, from which it takes its name, nearly resembles that already described: it is about 700 feet in diameter, from east to west, and 500 from north to south, and is

^a There is a view of Witham, engraved by Kip, in the *Theatre de la Grande Bretagne*, pl. 35.

surrounded

surrounded with a high vallum, and a slighter one on the outside. The views from the inner vallum are very extensive in every direction.

About half a mile north-west of Uffington castle, above the village of Compton-Beauchamp, is another camp, called Hardwell castle, in form approaching to a square, except where it is interrupted by the broken edge of the hill. It is surrounded by a double vallum, except where the ground is so steep as not to require it. The dimensions are about 140 paces by 180. It is probable, from its form, that this camp was a work of the Romans. Roman coins have been found in the neighbourhood.

In this place it may be proper to mention the vallum, which appears to have surrounded the town of Wallingford, and was unquestionably a Roman work: at the south-west angle it is very entire, for the space of about 270 paces on the south side, and 370 on the west. This vallum is single, and appears to have had a wet ditch, which rendered it very secure.

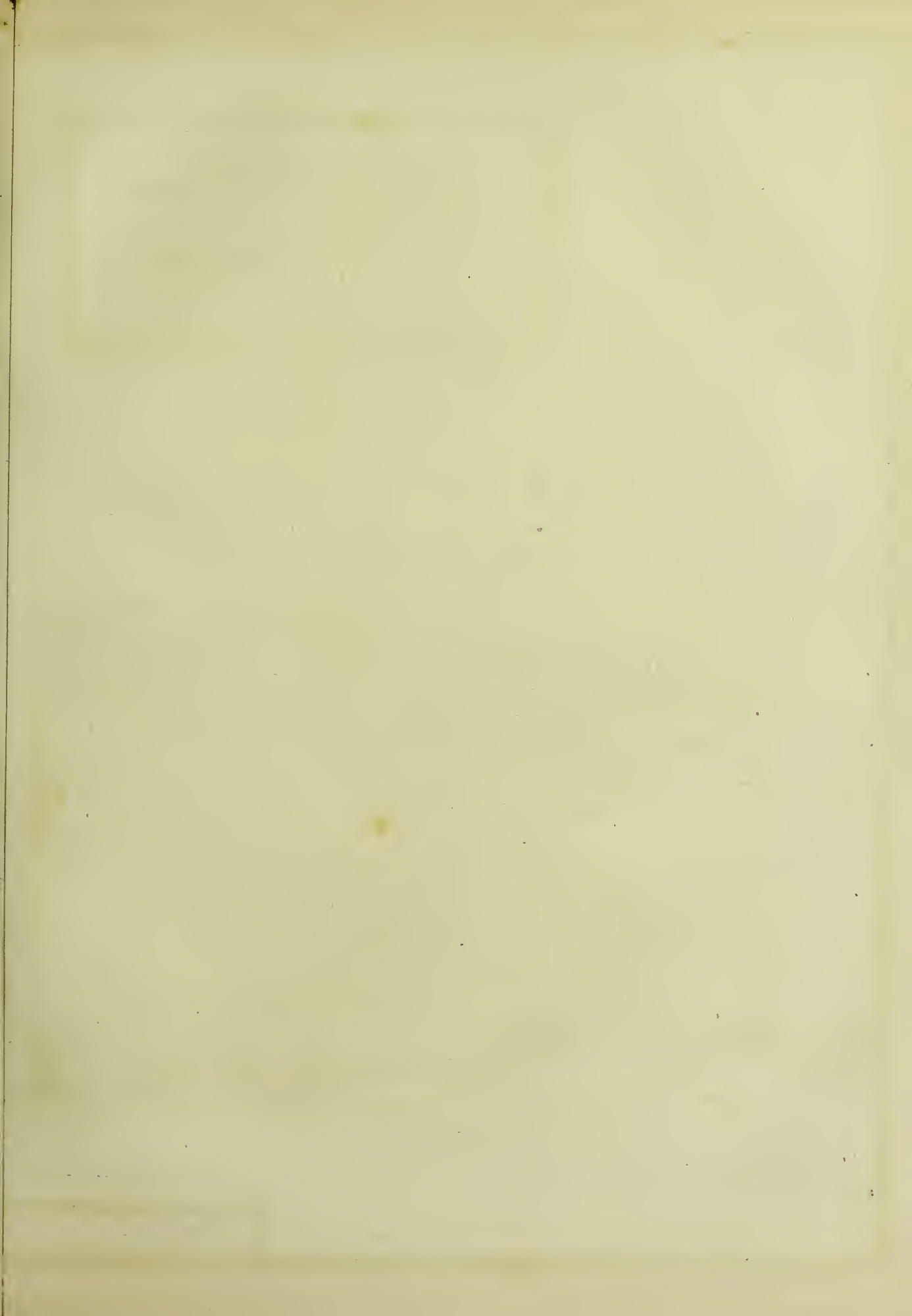
Near Little Coxwell are the remains of a camp, which appears to have been of a square form. Its double ditch is nearly entire on the west side: few traces of the works remain in other parts. This camp commands a very extensive view of the vale of White-Horse, and the upper parts of Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire. On an elevated spot on Bagshot-heath, near East-Hampsted, is a strong camp of an irregular form, following the shape of the hill, commonly called Cæsar's camp, and supposed to be a Roman work; it is about 560 paces in length, and 280 in width about the middle of it. The view from this camp is very extensive; it lies near the great Roman road, leading from London to the western part of the island; and at a small distance from Wickham-Bushes, where various Roman remains have been discovered.

Cherbury camp, about a mile from Pusey, in an insulated part of the parish of Longworth, is oval. Its diameter in the widest part is 310 paces; in the narrowest, 211; it is surrounded by a triple vallum.

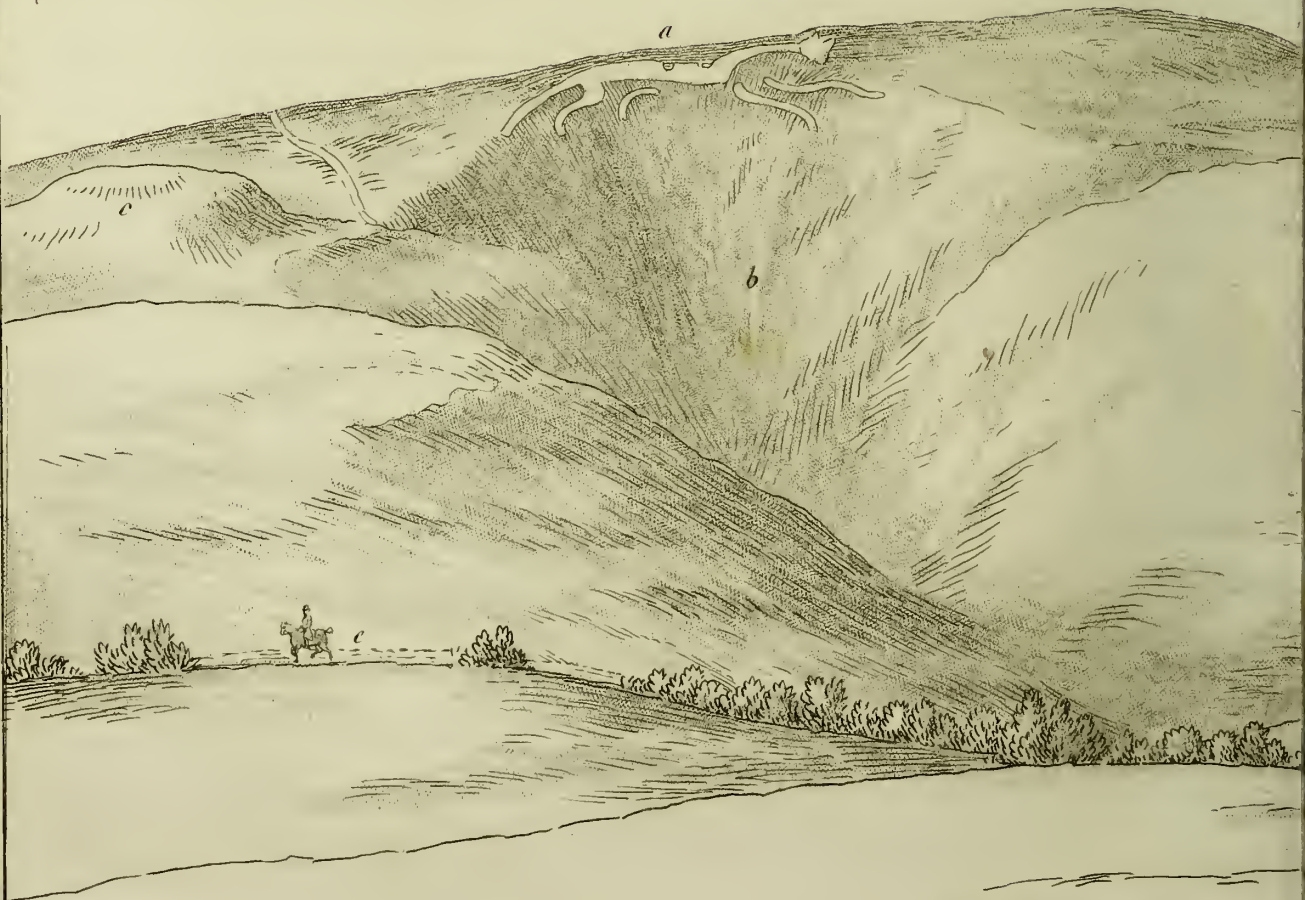
On the west side of Ashdown park, near the park wall, is a circular camp about 140 paces in diameter, with a single vallum, commonly called Alfred's castle. Within the area there is an appearance very like the traces of a building. Two miles from Faringdon, on the road to Highworth, at a place called Badbury-hill, there is a camp nearly circular, with a strong vallum, probably a Danish work*.

On Sinodun-hill, in the parish of Wittenham, near the Roman station of Dorchester, there is a large camp of an irregular form, the vallum of which is very strong and follows the shape of the hill. Leland says, that Roman coins

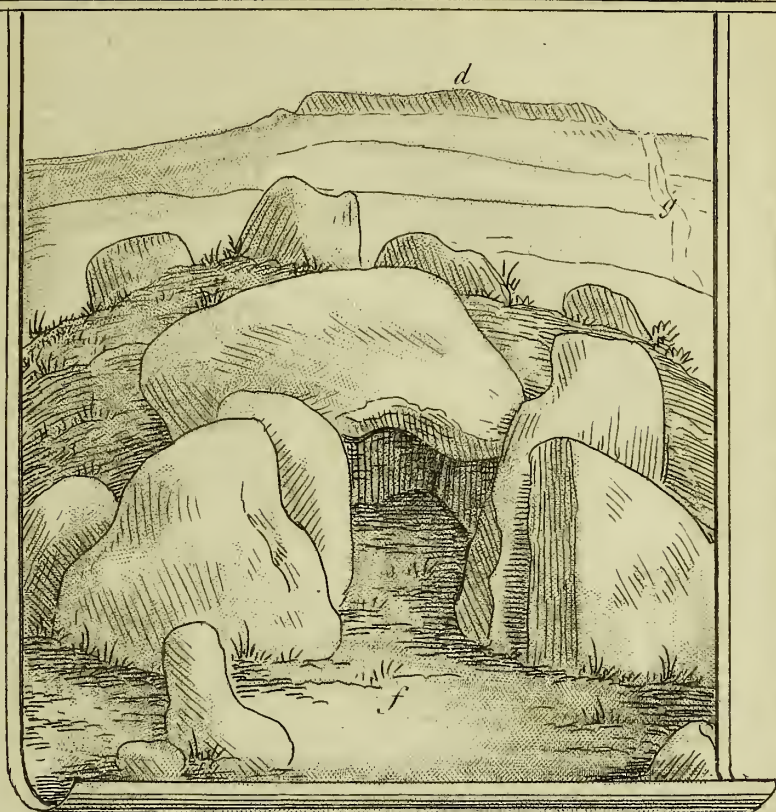
* Leland calls this "a great ditch, or rather a camp of war, as sum say, dikid by the Danes for a sure campe." Itin. vol. II. f. 21.



- a. The White Horse 374 feet in length.*
b. The Declivity called by the Country People the Manger.
c. Dragon Hill.
d. d. Uffington Castle.
e. e. The ancient Road, here called The Fekleton Way.
f. Wayland Smith.
g. The Ridge-way.



VIEW OF WHITE-



HORSE HILL, BERKS.

had been often found in this place. There can be little doubt that it was occupied by the Romans, though perhaps originally a British work.

In an inclosed field, about half a mile from Little Coxwell, there is a space of fourteen acres called *Cole's Pits*, in which are 273 pits, for the most part circular, excavated in the sand, the depths of which in general vary from 7 to 22 feet; the diameter of one of them is 40 feet. The late Hon. Daines Barrington, who gave an account of them to the Society of Antiquaries, supposes that, as neither stone nor any valuable minerals could have been dug from them, they were the habitations, or hiding places, of the ancient Britons^p.

A little way to the westward of Uffington castle before-mentioned, near the *ridge-way* leading over the Downs, there is a considerable *tumulus*, commonly called *Wayland-Smith*; over which are, irregularly scattered, several of the large stones called *Sarsden stones*, found in that neighbourhood; three of the largest have a fourth laid on them in the manner of the British *cromlechs*. It is most probable that this *tumulus* is *British*.

Near Uffington castle is also the rude figure of a horse which gives name to the hill, formed by cutting away the turf; this appears to be of great antiquity, and more likely to have been a work of the Britons than, as it has been usually supposed, a memorial for Alfred's victory over the Danes: the figure of a horse, a good deal resembling that above-mentioned, frequently occurs on the British coins. Just under the White-Horse hill there is a round hill called Dragon-hill, which Mr. Aubrey and others have supposed to be the *tumulus* of some British chief; it is not however by any means certain that it is an artificial mount. Many *tumuli* are dispersed on the Berkshire downs, especially in the way from Uffington to Lambourn, where a groupe of them has obtained the name of the Seven Barrows.

Miscellaneous Antiquities.—In digging a grave at Kentbury, in 1762, a large quantity of Saxon coins were found of Edred, Edwy, and Edmund^q; and on rebuilding the bridge over the Kennet at Newbury, in 1770, some ancient knives, spoons, and English coins, &c.^r Various antiquities were discovered, in the year 1705, at St. Leonard's hill near Windsor, consisting of several spear-heads, pieces of a trumpet, a spur, and a bronze lamp, presented by Sir Hans Sloane to the Society of Antiquaries; the latter was supposed to be Roman, but it has not the appearance of so high antiquity.

^p See Archæolog. vol. VI. p. 236—243. Mr. Coates, in the corrections and additions, at the end of his history of Reading, mentions "pits in Early field, near Reading, called the Mase-holes," between 15 and 20 feet deep, and covering nearly an acre of ground. ^q Gough's Camden, vol. 1. p. 159. ^r Ibid. ^s Ibid.

PAROCHIAL TOPOGRAPHY.

THIS county, like Bedfordshire, has had no historian. The work called Ashmole's Antiquities of Berkshire is improperly so termed. It was published after his death, and has no other pretension to being called by his name, than that it consists chiefly of church notes copied from such as were collected by that industrious herald and antiquary, and by him deposited in the Heralds' College. The scanty information which it contains of other matters was collected by the editor. Mr. Rowe Mores had an intention of writing a topographical history of this county, and made collections for that purpose. The answers from some of the clergy to his circular queries are printed in the *Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica*. A copious history of Reading has been lately published by the Rev. Charles Coates. In Ashmole's History of the Order of the Garter, there is a short account of the castle, chapel, and college at Windsor, of which he intended to have published a complete history. A history of Windsor was published in 1749, by J. Pote, a bookseller at Eton. The information contained in the following brief parochial account has been collected from the same sources as that for Bedfordshire; namely, from public records and a personal survey of the several parishes, assisted by occasional communications from the clergy and others, to all of whom we beg to return our acknowledgments, particularly to the Rev. Dr. Rawbone, vicar of Buckland, the Rev. Mr. Shaw, vicar of Wantage, and James Payn esq. of Maidenhead. Dr. Beke's communications have added much value to the foregoing introduction.

ABINGDON, or ABINGTON, in the hundred of Hormer, is a large market and borough town, situated at the conflux of the Ock and the Thames, 56 miles from London, on the road to Cirencester. It gives name to a deanery.

The town, which is of great antiquity, was originally called Seovechesham, or Seusham. A manuscript in the Cottonian library, speaking of its ancient state, describes it as a large and wealthy city, where was the royal residence, whither the people resorted to assist at the great councils of the nation, and where, before the establishment of Christianity, the Britons had a place of religious worship¹.

¹ See Dugdale's *Monastricon*, vol. i. p. 99. *1. 312. 2. 11.*

In the reign of Centwin, King of the West Saxons, who died in 686, Cissa, one of his viceroys, or his nephew Heane, or perhaps both jointly, founded a monastery in this town, in honour of the Virgin Mary, for 12 monks of the Benedictine order, of whom Heane was made abbot^u. At his request Ceadwall, the son and successor of Centwin, not only confirmed to him and his monks the site of their monastery, but gave them also the town of Seovechesham, with all its appendages, commanding that it should be thenceforwards called *Abbondon*^x, which, according to the account of a monkish writer of the 13th century, was the name of a hill near Bayworth, in the neighbouring parish of Sunningwell, where the abbey was first built. This hill is said to have been so called from Aben, son of a noble Briton, who escaped from the massacre of Hengist, and retiring thither led a life of extraordinary piety^y. The fact of the monastery having been established for a few years, somewhere in the neighbourhood of Bagley wood^z, before its removal to Seovechesham, is generally admitted; but the most intelligent antiquaries have considered the story of Aben to be fabulous, and that the name of Abendon, given to this ancient town in the reign of Ceadwall, was occasioned by its connection with the abbey, in consequence of that monarch's munificent donation. The original building was 120 feet in length, being circular at the east and west ends^a.

Having flourished for nearly two centuries, this abbey was destroyed by the Danes in the reign of King Alfred^b, who, to complete the ruin of the poor monks, took away from them the town of Abingdon, and the whole of their estates, because they had not made what he esteemed a sufficient requital to him for vanquishing their enemies the Danes. His grandson, Edred, restored the possessions of the convent, and laid the first stone of a new monastery^c. The work was completed by St. Ethelwold the abbot (who was afterwards bishop of Winchester), and his successor Ordgar, who was made abbot in 963. King Edgar seems to have acquired, undeservedly, the credit of having restored this abbey; for his charter, as printed by Dugdale, only confirms what had been before given by Edred. Numerous benefactions contributed to raise it to the highest rank among the monastic institutions of the kingdom; it became one of the mitred abbies, and so extensive was the landed property of the abbot and convent, even at an

^u Dugdale's *Monasticon*, Tanner's *Notitia Monastica*, and Br. Willis's *Mitred Abbies*.

^x Dugdale's *Monasticon*, vol. I. p. 98.

^y History of the foundation of the abbey of Abingdon (written in the reign of Henry III.) among the Cottonian MSS. Claudius C. IX.

^z Hearne supposes at Chilwell farm, in the parish of Cumner; but the writer of the MS. above-mentioned, says near Bayworth.

^a Dugdale's *Monasticon*, vol. I. p. 98. ^b Leland's *Collectanea*, vol. II. p. 253. ^c Ibid.

early period, that, when the Norman Survey was taken, they had more than 30 manors in the county of Berks, in their own possession, besides several others which were held under them as lords of the fee.* Their clear yearly rental, at the time of the dissolution, was 1876l. 10s. 9d.

In the year 1073, Egelwinus, Bishop of Durham, was imprisoned in the abbey at Abingdon, and, as the Chronicles relate, famished to death^d. Geoffrey of Monmouth, the historian, is said, by Godwin, to have been abbot of Abingdon, and to have been buried in that convent. Among other eminent persons who have received sepulture there, may be reckoned St. Edward, king and martyr, and Robert D'Oilly the builder of Oxford castle, a powerful baron in the reign of William the Conqueror^e. In 1326 the abbey was plundered by the townsmen of Abingdon^f.

Leland describes this monastery as a magnificent pile of building: the conventual church and the eastern part of the convent were built by the Norman abbots; the stately west front by the abbots Ascheldune and Sante, in the fifteenth century. It appears that part of the precincts of the abbey were embattled, for which the abbot had a licence from King Edward III. in 1330^g. Camden describes the ruins as exhibiting, in his time, evident marks of its former grandeur. Browne Willis speaks of the gate-house as the only remaining vestige of the abbey; but there are still several remnants of it among the old buildings now occupied as a brewery by the proprietor, Mr. Child^h. The abbey gate-way is now used as a gaol.

The last abbot of Abingdon, Thomas Penthecost, alias Rowland, was among the first to acknowledge the king's supremacy. For his ready compliance he was rewarded, after the surrender of his convent, which took place in 1538, with a pension of 200l. *per annum*; besides the capital mansion and park at Cumner (which had been his country-seat as abbot of Abingdon) for life, or till the King should give him preferment to the amount of 223l. *per annum*. Browne Willisⁱ regards this ample grant as a full refutation of the charges which were brought against this prelate by the visitors of religious houses; but, although such charges were, perhaps in this and many other instances, either wholly without foundation, or much exaggerated to serve an interested purpose, yet it may be presumed, from what we know of that monarch's character, that a ready compliance with his will was, in his eyes, the greatest of virtues, and non-compliance the worst of crimes, as the abbot of Reading and many others found to their cost.

^d Holinshed. * Br. Willis's Mitred Abbies. ^e Hen. Knighton, inter Decem Scriptores, 2551.

^f Pat. 4 Edw. III. p. 1. ^g See p. 211. ^h In his Mitred Abbies.

The site of the abbey at Abingdon was granted to Sir Thomas Seymour, and afterwards to Sir Thomas Wroth^k. It is now in severalties; Mr. Child has that part where his brewery is carried on; Mr. Phillips, of Culham, is proprietor of that part which adjoins the mills.

Cissa, sister of Heane, founder of the abbey, or, as some say, Cilla, sister of King Ceadwall, about the year 690, founded a nunnery at Abingdon in honour of St. Helen, of which she was the first prioress. It was afterwards removed to Witham, in this county^l. The site of the nunnery at Abingdon was called afterwards the manor of St. Elen's, and gave name to a family that possessed it for a considerable time. In the year 1371 it was conveyed by Matilda, sister and heir of Philip de St. Elen, to Aylmer Lord St. Amand^m, who died seised of it in 1403ⁿ. The feoffees of Eleanor de St. Amand conveyed it, in 1427, to Thomas Chaucer and others, commissioners of the fraternity of the Holy Cross^o; and it is supposed now to form part of the property of Christ's hospital in this town, to which almost the whole of the estates of the above-mentioned fraternity were granted by King Edward VI.

It has been already mentioned that, at a very early period, long before the abbey was built, Abingdon, or, more properly speaking, Seovechesham, as it was then called, was a royal residence. It seems to have been deserted by the Saxon Kings for many years, when Offa, King of the Mercians and West Saxons, on an accidental visit to Abingdon, became enamoured of a spot called the Isle of Andersey, over against the monastery; where was then a building inhabited by certain wealthy persons who had taken the religious habit, having bequeathed their property to the church after their decease, but reserving the possession of it during life. For this island the king gave the abbot and convent the manor of Goofey, which they continued to possess till the dissolution, and built in the island a palace which was for a while his residence. His son, Egfrid, closed his short reign there in 694. During the reign of Kenwulf, his successor, the palace was deserted by its royal owner, and was inhabited only by his huntsmen, falconers, and other servants, who became a great nuisance to the convent. At the request of Abbot Rethunus, and in consideration of the manor of Sutton and 120 pounds of silver, the king restored the island to the monks, with a promise that it should never more become the site of a royal palace^p. Ieland, in his Itinerary, mentions the island of Andersey as lying to the south-west of the town, between the old and new bottom of Isis, over against St. Helen's; and says, that the site of the fortress was in his time occupied by a barn.

^k Tanner. ^l Ibid. ^m Clauf. Rot. ⁿ Esch. Hen. IV. ^o Ancient records belonging to the corporation of Abingdon. ^p Dugdale's Monasticon. vol. I. p. 98.

Although Abingdon, after this transaction with Kenwulf, was no longer a royal residence, yet it appears that our monarchs sometimes kept their court there, being guests to the monks, as they usually were in all towns where they had no palace, and there was a monastery, which had suitable accommodations for their reception. William the Conqueror kept his Easter at Abingdon, in 1084, being most splendidly entertained by Robert D'Oilly, who, through the king's favour, was one of the most powerful barons of that age. His son-in-law, Milo Crispin, and Osmund, bishop of Sarum, were the only persons admitted to dine at the king's table. When the monarch quitted Abingdon, he left his younger son, afterwards King Henry I. to be educated in the convent, under the inspection of Robert D'Oilly¹. The royal youth profited so much under his tutor, that he obtained the appellation of Beauclerc, by which he was ever after distinguished. King Henry III. kept his court at Abingdon, in 1276, as appears by the Chronicle of Dunstable.

The insurrection mentioned by our historians², which broke out in 1431, whilst King Henry VI. was in France, made its appearance in this town, of which William Mandeville, one of the ringleaders, was bailiff³. The object of the insurgents was to level all distinctions; and their enmity was chiefly directed against the clergy, whose heads they threatened to make as cheap as sheep's heads, three or four a penny. The Duke of Gloucester, on hearing of the commotion, hastened to Abingdon, where he soon restored peace by seizing Mandeville, the principal ringleader, whom he sentenced to instant execution.

In the early part of the great civil war between Charles I. and his parliament, the king had a garrison at Abingdon, where he established the head quarters of his horse⁴. Prince Rupert was there with his army in December, 1642. On the 17th of April, 1644, the king, attended by the Prince and the Duke of York, brought the queen to Abingdon, from whence she soon afterwards removed to Exeter⁵. A few days after the royal army quitted Reading, in the month of May, 1644, the King held a council of war at Abingdon, from whence he returned to Oxford, leaving his infantry behind him, with instructions to defend the town, if the enemy, who were expected to follow, should advance from the east, where, besides some very indifferent fortifications, they had the advantage of the river; but if the enemy advanced from the west, the garrison should draw out and fight them, unless they should find their numbers to be very superior. But on the approach of the Earl of Essex, with his army, although they advanced from the eastward, the general, whose name seems not to be recorded, immediately gave

¹ Kennet's Parochial-Antiquities, p. 69.
History of Abingdon.
Discourses, p. 10, 11.

² See Holinshed.
³ Clarendon, vol. II. p. 82. 8vo. edit.

⁴ Little's MS.
⁵ Walker's Historical

orders to quit the town, and the whole army marched to Oxford^{*}. On the 25th of May, being the day after the king returned to Oxford, the Earl of Essex took possession of the town, plundered it, and placed there a garrison for the parliament, of which General Browne, a very distinguished officer, and one of the members for the city of London, was made governor.

A few days afterwards, on the 31st of May, as Sir Edward Walker informs us, Waller's army, which had been quartered near Wantage, entered Abingdon, committed fresh plunder on the inhabitants, and sawed down the crosses. The new garrison at Abingdon proved so very troublesome a neighbour to Oxford, particularly by obstructing the communication between that town and Wallingford, that various attempts were made, on the part of the royalists, to regain possession of it. The first was by the Earl of Cleveland, who, with 150 horse, contrived to enter the town, endeavouring to take it by surprise; but, on the alarm being given to the garrison, in which were 1000 foot and 400 horse, he was obliged to give over his attempt, and secure his retreat; which he did with little loss[†]. Soon afterwards Sir Henry Gage attempted to build a fort at Culham Bridge, but was mortally wounded in a folly made by the governor[‡]. Another attempt was made in 1645, by Sir Stephen Hawkins, with no better success, when the governor was absent in London[§]. In March, 1646, Prince Rupert made an attack on the town; and, getting within the works, placed 500 men in the abbey, but was in the end overpowered, and compelled to retreat^{||}. A cruel custom is said to have prevailed within this garrison, of hanging all the Irish prisoners without a trial; a practice so notorious, that "Abingdon law" became proverbial[¶].

Abingdon increased much in population and wealth, by the building of Burford, or Borford Bridge, near the town, and another bridge at Culhamford, about half a mile east of it. The dangerous passage at the fords, and the frequent inundations of the intermediate road, made their communication with the metropolis very precarious; but after these bridges were built, it was not only rendered certain, but Abingdon became a considerable thoroughfare, the road to Cirencester, and other places towards the west, which had before passed by a more circuitous route through Wallingford, being now brought through this town. Camden mentions some ancient verses, formerly in St. Helen's church, which attributed the honour of this great public work, accomplished in the year 1416, to King Henry V. but with how little reason may be seen by a perusal of that monarch's charter^d, the substance of which is to the following purport:—Having been given to understand, that the

^{*} Clarendon, vol. II. p. 484. [†] Ibid. II. 487. [‡] Ibid. II. 554. and Heath's Chronicle, p. 70.

[§] Heath, p. 94.

^{||} Perfect Occurrences, March, 1646.

[¶] Heath, p. 75, 76.

^d Pat. 4 Hen. V.

highway leading from Abingdon to Dorchester, by Borford and Culhamford, was rendered so dangerous by the inundation of the river Thames, that his subjects could not pass that way without imminent peril of their lives, and that John Houchons, John Bret, and the community of the said town of Abingdon, had an intention of building two bridges, of their own bounty, one at Borford, the other at Culhamford, and of making a causeway between the bridges, at their own cost, and that of others who might contribute to assist them in the work; he, therefore, grants his royal licence and protection that they may, at their own cost, and that of other inhabitants of the neighbourhood, build the said bridges, construct the causeway, and keep them in repair, without let or molestation from himself, or his successors, their sheriffs, bailiffs, justices, &c. &c. according to the usual form of such licences. John Houchons, or Hutchins, mentioned in the charter, laid the first stone on St. Alban's day. He and John Banbury were zealous promoters of the work, and purchased the ground of the abbot, for which they gave him 115l.^s. Neither the abbot, nor any of the monks, appear to have distinguished themselves as benefactors. Sir Peter Befils gave the stones from his quarries at Befils-Legh and Sandford; and by his will in 1424, his lands and tenements in Abingdon, towards a fund for repairs. The greatest benefactor was Geoffrey Barbour, a merchant of Abingdon, who gave 1000 marks towards the building, and for making the causeway. In 1430, an act of parliament passed to make the bridges and road a free passage for ever. In 1453, William Hales and Maud his wife added three arches to one of the bridges, the road being still sometimes subject to inundations. Many of the above particulars are recounted in ancient rhymes, on a tablet, put up in 1457, by Richard Forman^f, in Christ's Hospital at Abingdon. The following lines, describing the inconveniences of the ferry, may serve as a specimen:

“ And if it were a beggar had breed in his bagge,
He schulde be ryght soone ibid for to goo aboute,
And of the pore penyless the hireward wold have,
A hood or a girdel, and let hem goo withoute.”

The whole is printed in Ashmole's Collections.

Leland speaks of Abingdon, as having a considerable clothing manufactory: the town, says he “ stonidith by clothing.” Before Queen Mary's reign this manufactory appears to have declined; and the town, from that cause, and partly perhaps in con-

^e This and many other curious particulars relating to the bridges, the fraternity of the Holy Cross, &c. are taken from a MS. history of Abingdon, collected by Francis Little, one of the principal burgesses in the year 1627, from ancient documents then existing, in the possession of the corporation. The present corporation obligingly favoured us with access to the manuscript.

^f See Little's MS.

sequence of the dissolution of the abbey, was reduced so low, that Sir John Mason, a native of Abingdon, who, from a mean origin, rose to an honourable station in the courts of King Edward VI. Queen Mary, and Queen Elizabeth, and filled the honourable post of Chancellor of the University of Oxford, was induced to lay its grievances before his sovereign in the reign of Queen Mary; whose charter, bearing date 1556, recites that "the town had fallen into great ruin and decay by the dilapidations of houses, fulling mills, &c. and was like to come and fall into extreme calamities." The parish of St. Helen's, according to an account taken by command of cardinal Pole in 1555, the year before this charter, contained only 1400 inhabitants^s; their number in 1801, according to the returns under the Population Act, was 3836. In consequence of Sir John Mason's representation, Queen Mary granted the townsmen lands to the value of 102l. 6s. 7d. *per annum*, to enable them to pay their fee-farm rent, and to maintain the state and reputation of the town. She granted them also a charter of incorporation, under which the town is governed by a Mayor, two Bailiffs, and nine Aldermen; and the privilege of sending one member to parliament. Richard Mayot, the first mayor, was buried in 1579; his widow survived till 1614, being at the time of her death 104 years of age. The first member elected for the town, was Oliver Hyde esq. The right of election was vested, by Queen Mary's charter, in the corporation; but of late it has been deemed to be in the inhabitants at large, not receiving alms.

Queen Mary's charter contains a grant of a market on Monday, and five fairs, the first Monday in Lent, the Nativity of the Virgin Mary, St. Margaret (July 20), St. Edmund the Bishop, and St. Andrew. The present fairs, being six in number, are held on the first Monday in Lent, St. Mark O. S. June 20, St. James O. S. the Monday after Michaelmas day, and December 11.

There are now two markets, Monday and Friday; the first is a great mart for corn; the Friday's market is principally for the delivery of corn sold on the preceding Monday. The market-house is a large building of freestone, erected about the year 1700. It supports a hall, in which are held the Summer Assizes for the county. The Easter Sessions are held also at Abingdon. The Michaelmas Sessions are held either at Abingdon or Reading, at the option of the magistrates.

The most considerable manufacture of the town, of late years, has been that of dressing hemp and making sackings, which has constituted the principal employment of the poor. A great trade is carried on in malt for the London markets. An act of parliament, for paving the town of Abingdon, passed in 1794.

The manor of Abingdon, which belonged to the monastery, became afterwards, by royal grant, vested in the corporation.

* MS. in the Bodleian Library.

57.2.11. The manor of Barton, or Barton-Court, in the parish of St. Helen's, belonged to the abbey, and was granted, soon after the dissolution, to the family of Reade. Compton Reade esq. of Barton, was created a baronet in 1661. It has long ceased to be a residence of the family; but the estate is still their property, and now belongs to the Dowager Lady Reade. Near Barton farm is a close belonging to the corporation, called the *Prytany*, where the broken victuals from the abbey are said to have been distributed.

88. The manor of *Shippon*, a hamlet in the parish of St. Helen's, which was parcel also of the possessions of the abbey, now belongs to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, having been annexed to the Duchy of Cornwall.

The manor of *Norcot*, a hamlet in the parishes of St. Helen's and St. Nicholas, belonged also to the abbey: in 1631 it was the property of John Lyon, who died that year, leaving two nephews of the names of Hyde and Gifford, joint heirs of his estates. Norcot is now the property of Sir George Bowyer bart.

Lacie's-Court, now a farm in the occupation of Mr. Bowles, was for some time, about the middle of the 17th century, the property and residence of the celebrated Dr. Peter Heylin^b.

There are two parish churches in Abingdon, dedicated to St. Nicholas and St. Helen. That of St. Nicholas is supposed to have been built about the year 1300, by Abbot Nicholas de Coleham; but the circular door at the west end, with zigzag ornaments, appears to be of a much earlier age. Leland says that this was "of old tyme, the chiefe parochie churche of Abyndon, but (when he wrote) the greatest reforte of all the towne was to St. Helens." Divine service is now performed only occasionally in the church of St. Nicholas. The benefice is a rectory in the patronage of the chancellor; but its profits are so small, that they are deemed insufficient for the maintenance of a minister to officiate constantly. Hearne, in his edition of Leland's *Collectanea*, says that it was endowed with the tythes belonging to a dilapidated chapel at Bayworth, which formerly constituted the endowment of a charnel chapel, at the west end of the area on which the abbey church stood.

The church of St. Nicholas contains little that is remarkable. In one of the windows are the arms of Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York. The only monument of any note, is that of Walter Dairell esq. of Lillingston-Dairell, in Buckinghamshire, recorder of Abingdon, who died in 1628. The epitaph records his virtues in the quaint style of panegyrick then in use.

The church of St. Helen's is a large Gothic building, with a handsome spire; it has a spacious chancel and nave, on each side of which are two aisles. The farther aisle on the south side was built for a gild, in 1539, by a person who lies buried

^b Ant. Wood's Athen. Oxon.

under an altar tomb in the north wall, as appears by part of an inscription still remaining; the name is concealed by the stairs of a gallery; the initials R. A.¹ occur, with the above mentioned date on several of the shields which surround the cornice. Our Lady's aisle was ceiled, at the expence of Nicholas Gould, one of the fraternity of the holy cross, and his wife Amy, in the reign of Henry VI. It had formerly this inscription:

“ In the worship of our Lady
Pray for Nicholas Gould and Amy.”

The same persons are said also to have ceiled the chancel of our Lady, and put up in the roof, the figures of kings of the family of Jesse, and Prophets. Several of these figures remain with the names of Nathan, Solomon, &c. written under them, at the west end of the aisle, under Gothic canopies richly carved in wood. The tradition is, that they were removed from the abbey after the dissolution, but they seem to have been made for the roof where they are now placed. Underneath are some Latin inscriptions, in monkish rhymes, from which we learn that William Beve was founder of the chapel, that William Cholfey repaired the roof, and that Henry Bernington gave the vestments and a silver cross. It is probable that this was the chapel where the fraternity of the holy cross used to attend divine service, and that the above mentioned benefactors were members of that society. In a gallery of this aisle hangs a tablet, with a portrait of Mr. William Lee, who died at the age of 92. The portrait is accompanied by a genealogical tree and an inscription, which records that he had 17 children (of which 15 were by his second wife), 78 grandchildren, and 102 great-grand-children. This tablet has been engraved. Mr. Lee's epitaph, which is printed in Ashmole's Collections, has been removed or obliterated. It states that he died in 1637, having been 53 years one of the principal burgeses of Abingdon, and five times mayor, and “ that he had *in his lifetime* issue from his loynes 200, lacking but three.” In the nave is a brass plate which covers the bones of Geoffrey Barbour, the great benefactor of the town, who died April 21, 1417. They were removed from the abbey after the dissolution. He had been bailiff of Bristol, and was, at the time of his decease, a merchant at Abingdon. At the south end of the north aisle is an altar tomb, in memory of John Royse, founder of the grammar school, who died in 1571. In the north aisle, near the entrance, is a monument by Hickey, which was erected pursuant to the will of Mrs. Hawkins, who died in 1780, having bequeathed the sum of 400l. for that purpose. It commemorates the deceased, her father, mother, and sister;

¹ Perhaps Roger Amyce the elder, whose son of the same name was one of the first governors of Christ's hospital, in Abingdon.

and her lover, the Rev. Walter Hart, vice-principal of St. Mary Hall, in Oxford, (author of the life of Gustavus Adolphus), who died in 1768, on the eve of their intended marriage. Mrs. Hawkins left money for preaching four annual sermons, on stated days; one of which, the fifth of January, was the anniversary of Mr. Hart's death.

The vicarage of St. Helen's is in the gift of the Crown. The parish register begins in 1538. The following curious entry shews that the spring assizes were formerly held here,—“1569—buried the 3 day of Marche, Margery Towfey, widdow, who was, at the assize then holden, quite of wichecrafte layde to her charge, and dyed this day in the streete, sodenlie as she was going on her busines.”

There are meeting-houses in this town for the Presbyterians, Anabaptists, and Quakers. George Benson, an eminent divine, was for some years minister¹ at that of the Presbyterians, which has been established many years.

In the year 1288, Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, built a chapel at Abingdon, on the spot where St. Edmund, Archbishop of Canterbury, was born^m: wonderful miracles were reported to have been observed in this chapel, the year after it was built. It is supposed to have stood on the west side of St. Edmund's laneⁿ. Robert Rich, brother of the archbishop, and author of his life, and his sisters, Margaret and Alice, successively prioresses of Catesby, and canonized as saints, were all natives of Abingdon^o. At a later period Sir John Mason before mentioned, and Sir Thomas Smith, secretary of the Latin tongue to King James I.^p may be mentioned as eminent natives of this place. The late primate of Ireland, a distinguished theologian, was born at Abingdon, in 1729, being the son of the rev. Joseph Newcome, vicar of St. Helen's.

At a very early period there was at Abingdon a brotherhood, or fraternity^q, who, having erected a very handsome rood, or cross, in the church of St. Helen, called themselves the Brethren of the Holy Cross. As early as the year 1389, they maintained a priest, and had two proctors chosen annually, to manage their affairs. It was by the exertions of the members of this community, that the bridges at Burford and Culhamford were built. In the year 1442, they were first incorporated by royal charter, and empowered to possess lands of 40*l. per annum*, yearly value, for the purpose of keeping in repair the road between Dorchester and Abingdon, and for the maintenance of thirteen poor men and women, and a chaplain to officiate in St. Helen's church. There were seven commissioners, or trustees, who had the oversight of this fraternity; among whom were Sir John Golafre and

¹ Biograph. Brit. ^m Willis's Notitia Parliamentaria. ⁿ Kennet's Paroch. Antiquities, p. 313. ^o Fuller's Worthies. ^p Granger. ^q The whole account of this fraternity of the Holy Cross is taken from Little's MS. partly in his own words.

Thomas Chaucer, son of the poet. To this period is attributed the erection of the beautiful cross, which stood formerly in the market-place, and which was demolished by the parliamentary army in the civil war. Among the arms with which it was ornamented were those of Sir John Golafre. This cross was repaired in 1605, at the instance of Mr. Little, the historian of Abingdon, who himself gave 30*l.* towards it. Most of the principal gentry of the county were contributors. It is said, that when the accommodation with the Scots was celebrated in this town, by order of parliament, in 1641, the 106th psalm was sung at the cross by 2000 choiristers[†]. Richard Symonds, an officer in King Charles's army, who was at Abingdon in May, 1644, describes it as octagonal, and says, that it was adorned with three rows of statues, consisting of Kings, Saints, and Bishops[‡]. A few days after Symonds was at Abingdon, this cross, which Sir Edward Walker, in his historical discourses, calls "the greatest ornament of the place, being a goodly piece for beauty and antiquity, standing upon pillars in the market-place," was fawn down by the soldiers belonging to Waller's army[§]. There is a view of it among the paintings at the east end of Christ's Hospital, which, though not well drawn, gives a pretty good idea of its form. To return to the account of the gild, or brotherhood:—it appears that, in 1457, they supported two chaplains, one of whom was called the rood priest, whose duty it was to pray for the benefactors to the rood; and the other, the bridge priest, who was to pray for the benefactors to the bridges and road. Their salary was 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* each. About this time it appears, that "they made annually, on the 3d of May, being the day of the invention of the Holy Cross, a very bountiful feast, unto which came many of the brethren and sisters of the society. They spent, usually, six calves, which, in those days, cost but 2*s.* 2*d.* a-piece; 16 lambs, which cost 12*d.* a-piece; above 80 capons, which cost 3*d.* a-piece; above 80 geese, which cost 2½*d.* a-piece; 800 eggs, which cost 5*d.* a hundred; many marrow-bones, much fruit and spice, great quantities of milk, cream, and flour (wheat was good cheap, being sold for 12*d.* a quarter, in the 33d year of Henry VI.); besides all this provision, they had much sent them by tenants, and by the brethren and sisters of the said fraternity. They had also, at their feasts, 12 priests, to sing a dirge, to whom they gave 4*d.* a-piece for their pains. They had 12 minstrels; some from Coventry, and some from Maidenhead, to make them merry, to whom they gave 2*s.* 3*d.* a-piece, besides their diet and horse-meat. They had, likewise, at their feasts, a solemn procession, according to the blind superstition and zeal of those dark days, pageants, plays, may-games, all to captivate the senses of the zealous

[†] See Gough's British Topography, I. 164.

[‡] Symonds's MSS. in the British Museum.

[§] Sir Edward Walker's Historical Discourses, p. 13.

beholders, and to allure the people to the greater liberality ; for they did not make their feasts without profit, but those that *sat* at dinner paid one rate, and those that, for want of room, did *stand*, paid another ; so that they of the fraternity that governed the feast (who were commonly four in number), always made gain to the common stock, for public uses. Their feasts were kept a long time in Banbury Court, in West St. Helen-Street ; afterwards in a house of their own, given them by Mr. William Dyer, vicar of Bray, in East St. Helen-Street, commonly called the Brotherhood-feast-house, which is now, 1627, in the tenure of William Eyston gent. ” King Richard III. granted the fraternity a new charter, and extended their licence of mortmain to 100*l. per annum*. Out of gratitude they took the part of that monarch. Their estates, which became forfeited to the successful competitor for the crown, were restored in 1486, and a free pardon granted to the fraternity. In 1547, the gild was dissolved, the rental of their estates being then 85*l. 15s. 6d. per annum*. King Edward VI. at the request of Sir John Mason, granted a new charter in 1553, to some of the principal inhabitants of the town, incorporating them by the name of the Governors of Christ’s Hospital, which hospital had been built in 1446, in St. Helen’s church-yard, by the dissolved fraternity, for the reception of 13 poor persons maintained by them. The new charter granted lands of the yearly value of 65*l. 11s.* (being part of the old endowment), for the repair of four bridges, the great or new bridge, Culham Bridge, Ock Bridge, and St. Helen’s Bridge, with the roads between them, for the support also of seven men and six women in the alms-houses, and other poor and needy persons in the town. King Charles II. extended their licence of mortmain to 100*l. per annum*. When the alms-houses were first founded, the paupers who resided in them were allowed one penny a-week each ; in 1457, 4*s.* a-quarter. Upon the first endowment of the hospital, after the Reformation, their allowance was 8*d.* a-week each, 12*d.* on Easter-day, and 3*l. 5s.* among them yearly, for their liveries. In 1627 they had 2*s. 6d.* a-week each, and 6*l. 10s.* for their liveries. In 1718 a new building was erected, out of the hospital funds, in which 18 poor persons are maintained ; there are now 14 in the old hospital ; they have all 6*s.* a-week each, and clothes once in two years. Those on the old foundation have gardens, and are allowed fuel ; the others none. The principal benefactors towards the repair of the bridges, and the maintenance of the alms people, at the time of the original establishment, were Geoffrey Barbour, Sir Peter Befils *, and Eleanor Lady St. Amand, heiress of the St.

* Little’s MS. * Both Geoffrey Barbour and Sir Peter Befils bequeathed large sums of money for charitable uses. Barbour, besides his benefactions to the gild, gave 50 marks for the marriage of ten poor women,

St. Elen family. The first sermon, in commemoration of benefactors, was preached by Archbishop Laud, before his promotion to the bench. The original hospital, built in 1446, of timber and plaster, is still standing: on the front are some old paintings, with figures intended for Geoffrey Barbour, King Edward VI. and Sir John Mafon, together with various allegorical devices, alluding to the duty of alms-giving. At the east end is a rude representation of the old cross at Abingdon. In the hall are portraits of Geoffrey Barbour, Sir Peter Befils, King Edward VI. Sir John Mafon, Lionel Bostock, whose family, descended from the Bostocks of Cheshire, resided for several generations at a house near Abingdon, called Fitzharris*, Thomas Teafdale, founder of Pembroke College, and other benefactors. The two former are undoubtedly of a later age than the persons they are said to represent.

Leland speaks of an ancient hospital and church, without the west gate, both dedicated to St. John the Baptist. The hospital, he says, was endowed by one of the abbots, for 12 poor persons. This hospital stood where the play-ground of the free-school now is; part of the chapel remains: the hospital, which was removed into the vineyards, was rebuilt in 1801, at the joint expence of the corporation and Bernard Bedwell esq. The paupers in this hospital (four men and their wives) receive one shilling a-week each from the corporation, and one shilling from Mr. Fountain. There is another ancient hospital near St. Helen's church, rebuilt out of the funds of Christ's Hospital, in 1797, for six men and their wives, who receive one shilling a-week each, and a two-penny loaf.

Mr. Twitty, in 1707, gave the sum of 1700*l.* to build and endow an alms-house for three poor aged men and three poor women. A benefaction of 200*l.* has since been added by Mr. Bedwell. This alms-house is in St. Helen's church-yard. The pensioners receive about four shillings a-week each, and they have clothes every other year.

John Royse, in the year 1563, founded a free-school in this town for 63 poor boys. Thomas Teafdale, the first scholar on Royse's foundation², gave by will the sum of 5000*l.* to Baliol College, in Oxford, to purchase lands for the maintenance of seven fellows and six scholars, to be chosen from Abingdon school, by the master and governors of Christ's Hospital. Baliol College having declined the bequest, it

women, all his wood and coals to be divided among his poor neighbours, the wood by the load, and the coals by the quarter; and the residue of his estate for the relief of the poor, and the repair of highways. Sir Peter Befils gave money, and divers fair manors and lordships in charity and portions of money, to marry maidens. He founded a college of White Monks at Oxford, and gave 600*l.* to repair any wrong that he, or any of his ancestors, had done to any man, and what was not claimed on that score to be given to the poor. Little's MS. from which all the particulars relating to the ancient state of the hospital are taken.

* Berkshire Pedigrees in the British Museum.

² Little's MS.

was given to Pembroke College, which was founded in 1624, principally with a view to this benefaction; Richard Wightwick, rector of east Illey and Hampsted-Norris, who is esteemed the joint founder, having only endowed it with three fellowships and four scholarships. At present there are very few boys in the school at Abingdon, who are on the foundation. It has been many years a flourishing seminary. Thomas Godwin, the learned author of the Roman and Jewish antiquities, was head-master of this school. Among persons of eminence, who have received their education here, may be reckoned Lord Chief Justice Holt, Dr. Newcome, the late primate of Ireland, already mentioned as a native of this town, the late Rev. Richard Graves, author of the *Spiritual Quixote* and many other works; and, among living characters, the Rev. Thomas Wintle, rector of Brightwell, the able translator of the Prophet Daniel; and William Holwell, the editor of *Dionysius Halicarnassus*.

A person of the name of Bennet left a benefaction for the education of six poor boys, who are instructed by the usher of Royse's school.

ALDERMASTON, in the hundred of Theale, lies south of the Kennet, on the borders of Hampshire, eight miles S. E. of Newbury, and about 12 S. W. of Reading.

The royal army, under the command of Colonel Gage, on its route from Oxford to Basing House, in 1644, halted at this village; on their return, finding the enemy in possession of the place, they went by another road^a. The Earl of Essex was with his army at Aldermaston, in the month of October, the same year, and marched thence by way of Padworth and Bucklebury Heath, to Newbury^b, immediately before the second battle which was fought near that town. The Earl of Manchester lay at Sir Humphrey Foster's house, the 17th of October, on his route from Reading to Newbury^c.

The manor of Aldermaston is said to have been given to Richard Achard, by King Henry I.^d It certainly was in the possession of one of that family and name, so early as the year 1229^e, and continued to belong to his descendants in the male line, till about the year 1358, when it passed by marriage to the De la Mares^f, and from them about 1500 to the Forsters. Sir George Forster, who was sheriff of Berkshire and Oxfordshire in 1514, married Elizabeth, the daughter and heir of John De la Mare esq. His father, Humphrey Forster, who served the office of sheriff for the same counties in 1472, is described by Fuller as of Aldermaston:

^a Clarendon's Hist. of the Rebellion, 8vo. II. 529. 531.

^b Heath's Chronicle, p. 64.

^c Coates's History of Reading, p. 42.

^d Leland.

^e Col. Rot. 13 Hen. III.

^f Esch.

Edw. III.

it appears more probable that he was of Harpeden, in Oxfordshire, which was the family seat before they became connected with Aldermaston. Sir Humphrey Forster, son of Sir George, was one of the esquires of the body to King Henry VIII. His descendant, Sir Humphrey, was honoured with a visit from Queen Elizabeth in 1601; in 1620 he was created a baronet. William Lord Stawell, having married Elizabeth, only daughter of William Pert esq. sole heiress, in right of her mother, of Sir Humphrey Forster bart. by whose death the title became extinct in 1711, became possessed of this manor, which passed to Ralph Congreve esq. in consequence of his marriage with Charlotte, only surviving child of Lord Stawell above mentioned, by his wife Elizabeth. Aldermaston is now the property of William Congreve esq. a collateral relation of Ralph Congreve above mentioned, who died without issue.

Aldermaston-house, the seat of Mr. Congreve, was almost wholly rebuilt by Sir Humphrey Forster in 1636. A large stack of chimneys in brick-work, variously ornamented, evidently exhibits the remains of a much more ancient mansion. The windows of the hall, and some other rooms, are decorated with coats of arms in stained glass, representing the matches of the families of Achard, De la Mare, and Forster. The hall is very lofty, and is surrounded by a spacious gallery. The house having been lately fitted up, and all the ornaments restored as they were in 1636, exhibits a curious specimen of the style of decoration then in use.

In the parish church are several monuments of the Forster family, particularly an altar tomb of alabaster, with the figures of Sir George Forster, who died in 1526, and his wife Elizabeth, heiress of the De la Mares; round the sides, under Gothic canopies, are small figures of eleven sons in armour, and eight daughters, with the angular head-dresses of that time. The tomb of one of the ancient family of Achard is denoted by the arms, but the inscription is gone.

The benefice of this parish, which lies in the deanery of Reading, has been called a vicarage, but improperly; there is no income whatever annexed to it, and the minister has been appointed, ever since the reign of Queen Elizabeth, by the lord of the manor, without any particular form, and without receiving institution from the bishop. The lord of the manor has, ever since that period, received all the tythes, both great and small, which were formerly appropriated to the priory of Sherbourn, paying a small quit-rent to Queen's College, in Oxford^s. It is erroneously stated in Bacon's *Liber Regis*, that the patronage of the *Vicarage*, as it is there called, is vested in that college.

* From the information of the Rev. Mr. Bird, the late minister.

Robert Dixon, minister of this parish in 1706, built four alms-houses for poor widows.

There are three annual fairs at Aldermaston, May 6, July 7, and Oct. 11.

ALDWORTH, in the hundred of Compton, and deanery of Newbury, lies in a very retired situation, about five miles from Market-Illey; about 11 miles from Newbury, by way of Hampsted-Norris; about nine miles from Wallingford; and about 12 from Reading, by way of Streatley. The manor of Aldworth, which, at the taking of the Norman Survey, had belonged to Theodoric the goldsmith, was conveyed in 1276, by Thomas de Clare, to Robert de Musgros, and confirmed to him and his heirs the same year, by the royal charter^a. Hawise, daughter and heir of this Robert, brought it in marriage to the noble family of Ferrars, of Chartleyⁱ, together with the manor of Hampsted-Norris, formerly called Hampsted-Ferrars, and other estates in this neighbourhood. There was another manor in Aldworth, which, with that of De la Beche, in the same parish, belonged, as early as the reign of Edward II. to the De la Beches. Edmund De la Beche, Archdeacon of Berks, who was of this family, was committed to Pomfret Castle in 1322, for being concerned in the escape of Maurice Lord Berkeley, and Lord Audley, from Wallingford^k. Sir Nicholas De la Beche had the superintendence of the Black Prince's education, and was afterwards lieutenant of the Tower^l. In 1338, he had the king's licence to make a castle of his mansion, called De la Beche, in this parish^m. In 1340, King Edward III. having returned from France, sorely incensed against those whom he had entrusted with the care of levying money in his absence, for not making him timely remittances, displaced some of his principal ministers, and committed several of the judges, and Sir Nicholas De la Beche, to the Towerⁿ. De la Beche was soon restored to favour, was employed the following year in the wars of Britany, summoned to Parliament as a baron in 1342; and in 1343 was made seneschal of Gascony^o. He died in 1347, without issue. Margaret, his widow, married Sir Thomas Arderne, and resided at another seat of the family, Beaumys Castle, near Reading; from whence she was forcibly carried away by John de Dalton, and his accomplices, in 1349^p. It has been said, that the heiress of the De la Beches, of Aldworth, married into the Whitlock family^q; but this match appears to have applied to a branch of the De la Beches, which continued much later in the male line^r. The Aldworth estates, immediately on the death of

Nicholas

^a Cart. 4 Edw. I.

ⁱ Dugdale.

^k Holinshed.

^l Holinshed and Dugdale.

^m Pat. 12 Edw. III.

ⁿ Holinshed.

^o Dugdale.

^p See Rot. II. 126. and

Kennet's Parochial Antiquities. p. 461, 462.

^q See Ashmole's Collections.

^r John

Whitlock, ancestor of Sir James and Sir Bulstrode Whitlock, married Agnes, daughter and heir

Nicholas Lord De la Beche, passed to the sisters of John De la Beche, who preceded Nicholas in the possession of those estates, and died seised of them in 1328¹. It is probable, that he was an elder brother. One of these co-heiresses appears to have married an ancestor of the Danvers family. Joan, the elder, married Sir Andrew Sackville, ancestor of the Duke of Dorset, and had by him a son of the same name², who possessed part of the property of the De la Beches, the whole of which, as far as relates to Aldworth, seems to have centered in Sir Thomas Langford, and Joan his wife, pursuant to an entail in a family settlement³; it is not improbable, that this Joan was the elder of the above-mentioned co-heiresses, who, after the death of Sir Andrew Sackville, might have married Sir Thomas Langford. Several ancient monuments in the parish church⁴, are generally supposed to have been erected in memory of the De la Beches. Capt. Symonds, who visited Aldworth church in 1644, says, that Mr. Grace, who was then vicar, informed him, that an altar tomb in the middle of the church, on which are the figures, in brass, of a person in armour, and his lady, was that of Nicholas Lord De la Beche, and that a pedigree of the family, fairly written on parchment, formerly hung at the east end of the south aisle; but that when Queen Elizabeth visited Aldworth, in one of her progresses, the Earl of Leicester took it down to shew her Majesty, and it was never replaced⁵. Sir Thomas Langford, above mentioned, died in 1391⁶, and his descendants, several of whom served the office of sheriff, continued at Aldworth till 1509, when John Langford esq. died seised of the manors of Aldworth and De la Beche, having covenanted that Ann, his only child, then nine years of age, should, when she came to years of discretion, marry either Walter, son and heir of Henry Smith, or Thomas, son and heir of John Spencer⁷: perhaps death relieved her from making the choice: it does not appear, at least from records, that the manor of Aldworth, or any of the other Berkshire estates which belonged to the Langfords, were ever in the families of Smith or Spencer. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, the manor of Aldworth was the property of Sir John Norris, from whom it descended to the Berties. In 1756, it was purchased of the Earl of Abingdon, by the father of the present proprietor, Richard Palmer esq. of Sunning. There are no remains of De la Beche Castle. Its site, now called Beche Farm, is the property of Mr. Charles Stevens, of Peasemore.

heir of Robert De la Beche, about the year 1454, Wm. Whitlock, first Cousin of Sir James Whitlock, was lord of the manor of Beeches, near Wokingham, so called from this family. Pedigree of Whitlock, communicated by Ralph Bigland esq. Norroy King of Arms.

¹ Esch. 9 Edw. II. ² Collins. ³ See Esch. 44 Edw. III. under the name of De la Beche. ⁴ See an account of these monuments, p. 208. ⁵ Symonds's MS. Notes in the British Museum. ⁶ Esch. 14 Rich. II. ⁷ Esch. 1 Hen. VIII.

The rectory of Aldworth was appropriated to the priory of Bromhale, in 1307. It now belongs to the master and scholars of St. John's College, in Cambridge, who are patrons of the vicarage. The vicar enjoys a beneficial lease of the great tythes under the college.

APPLETON, in the hundred of Ock, and deanery of Abingdon, lies about five miles to the south-west of Oxford. The manor which had belonged to Robert de Stokes, was, in 1308, granted to Giles de la Mote, Groom of the King's Chambers^b. The more early part of its history is entirely enveloped in obscurity, which is much to be regretted, as the manor-house, which still exists, is undoubtedly of a more ancient date, and exhibits a very rare specimen of a private mansion of so remote a period^c. From the De la Motes, the manor of Appleton passed, by female heirs, to the families of Fitzwarren, Caston, and Petyt^d. It was afterwards in the Fettiplaces. Sir John Fettiplace sold it, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, to the Hanleys, of whom, before the middle of the 17th century, it was purchased by the ancestors of Robert Southby esq. the present proprietor, who resides in the ancient mansion above mentioned, which stands near the church.

The manor of Tinteynes in this parish, which passed, by a female heir, from the family of Befils, of the adjoining parish of Befils-Legh, to the Fettiplaces^e, was purchased a few years ago, by Mr. Southby, of Mr. Cook, who bought it of the Fettiplace family. There appears to have been formerly a considerable mansion at Tinteynes, within a moated site.

The manor of Eton, in this parish, commonly called Eton *juxta* Cunner, which belonged formerly to the family of St. Hilary, passed, by a female heir, to Aylmer, Lord St. Amand, was afterwards the property of Sir John Golafre^f; and, at a later period, of Sir Thomas White, who gave it to his newly-founded college of St. John the Baptist, in Oxford.

In the parish church at Appleton, is a handsome monument of Sir John Fettiplace, who died in 1593, with his effigies in armour, and the tomb of John Goodryngton, with the figure in brass of a shrouded skeleton. He died in 1518, and his widow became a nun at Syon. There are several memorials for the family of Southby. The president and scholars of Magdalen College, in Oxford, are patrons of the rectory.

ARBORFIELD, in the hundred of Sunning, is situated about four miles south-west of Wokingham, and about five miles south-east of Reading. It is probable that

^b Pat. 1 Edw. II.

^c See p. 212.

^d See Esch. 7 Edw. IV.

^e Esch. 7 Hen. VIII.

^f See Esch. 4 Hen. IV. & 20 Hen. VI.



J. J. Jones, del. & fecit

DOOR-WAY OF APPLETON MANOR-HOUSE.

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the manor, which lies within the manor of Sunning, belonged formerly to the Bullocks, of this place; an ancient family, several of whom served the office of sheriff in the 14th, 15th, and 16th centuries. One of them is called, in their pedigree, Hugh with the brazen hand^g. In the early part of the 17th century, this manor was in the Standens. William Standen esq. of Arborfield, was sheriff of the county in 1615. Edward Standen, the last heir male of this family, was the person alluded to in the well-known ballad of Molly Mogg of the Rose^h. He died about the year 1730, when his estates devolved on his heir, Richard Aldworth esq. father of the present Lord Braybroke, then a minor, and were sold by his guardian, under an act of Parliament (4 Geo. II.) to Pelsant Reeves, father of John Reeves esq. the present proprietor. There is a handsome monument for Pelsant Reeves esq. in the parish church. The manor-house, an old mansion near the church, built by the Standens, is now occupied by Mr. Wisdom Barrett.

Lord Braybroke is patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Reading; the advowson was reserved when the manor was sold by his father's guardian. This parish contains about 1300 acres.

ARDINGTON, in the hundred of Wanting, and deanery of Abingdon, is a small village, about two miles east of Wantage. The manor was anciently parcel of the barony of St. Walery. Richard, Earl of Cornwall, King of the Romans, died seized of it in 1272ⁱ. It was afterwards in the Longespees and Lacys, Earls of Salisbury and Lincoln^k; from the latter it passed to the Cobhams, before the year 1326^l. St. John de Cobham gave it to King Edw. III. in 1364, reserving a life interest in it^m. In 1368, the king bestowed the manor of Ardington, described as having then lately belonged to his aunt, Mary Countess-Marshallⁿ, on his favourite Alice Perrers^o. It became forfeited upon her attainder, which took place after the King's death, and was granted to John Holland, Earl of Huntingdon, brother of King Richard II^p. Reverting to the crown, after the death of his son, John Duke of Exeter, it was given, in 1483, to Richard Lord Grey, the Queen's son, and his issue male^q. It is now the property of William Wiseman Clarke esq. whose ancestors have possessed it more than two centuries. In the parish church is the monument of Sir Edward Clarke, who was sheriff of the county in 1626, and his wife, daughter of Sir Thomas Temple bart. The great tythes were appropriated

^g Berkshire Pedigrees in the British Museum.

Mr. Hodgkinson.

ⁱ Esch. 56 Hen. III.

Edw. II.

^m Pat. 38 Edw. III.

Countess-Marshall, was relict of Ralph de Cobham. See Esch. 36 Edw. III.

⁴² Edw. III.

^p Pat. 8 Ric. II.

See another grant to the same Earl, Pat. 12 R. II.

^q Pat. 22 Edw. IV.

^h From the information of the present rector,

^k Dugdale's Baronage.

^l Esch. 19

ⁿ Mary Brotherton, Countess of Norfolk, and

^o Pat.

to Ofeney Abbey; they are now held under Christ's Church College, in Oxford, by Mr. Clarke. The vicarage is in the gift of that college.

ASHAMPSTED, in the hundred of Moreton, lies about nine miles north-east of Newbury, and about eleven north-west of Reading. In 1329 Sir Gilbert de Ellesfeld gave lands to King Edward III. for the manor of Ashampsted, and died seised of it in 1344¹. It was afterwards in the Langfords², and is now the property of Robert Hopkins esq. of Tidmarsh, by a late purchase from the family of Gill, who had been in possession of it about forty years.

Thomas de Colehill died seised of the manor of the Wyle, in Ashampsted, in the year 1352³.

The manor of Hartridge, in this parish, is supposed to be the same estate which was anciently held by the tenure of keeping a Gofs-hawk for the King⁴. This estate belonged, at a remote period, to a family of the same name, and was afterwards successively in the families of Percy, Romaine, and Wayte⁵. The manor of Hartridge is now the property of Robert Baker esq.

The parochial chapel of Ashampsted is annexed to the vicarage of Basilden. The impropriate rectory was, in 1619, the property of Sir William Kingsmill. It was afterwards in the family of Sayer, and passed by a female heir to the Gills, of whom it was lately purchased by Mr. Hopkins.

ASHBURY, in the hundred of Shrivenham, and deanery of Abingdon, lies on the borders of Wiltshire, about ten miles west of Wantage, about six north-west of Lambourn, and about eight south of Faringdon. The manor of Ashbury was given by King Edred, to the monastery of Glastonbury⁶: after the dissolution it was granted by King Henry VIII. (in 1544) to the family of Essex, of whom it was purchased in 1625, by Sir William Craven, afterwards Lord Craven, ancestor of the present proprietor, the Earl of Craven, who has a seat at Ashdown Park, in this parish.

The manor of Edwinstone or Idstone, has, from time immemorial, passed with that of Ashbury. The manor of Ordestone or Qdstone, was, as early as the year 1518, in the family of Rogers⁷, from whom it passed by marriage to that of Essex. In the year 1598 it was sold by Sir William Essex, to Sir Edward Fisher, and by the latter in 1626 to Sir William Craven. It now belongs to the Earl of Craven, who has a fourth manor in this parish, called Kingston-Winflow. *Idstone*, *Odstone*, and *Kingston-Winflow*, are hamlets to Ashbury.

¹ Esch. 18 Edw. III. The manor is called in the Record, Yeshampsted.

² Esch. Ric. II. &c.

³ Esch. 26 Edw. III.

⁴ Blount's Jocular Tenures.

⁵ Esch. Edw. I. and

Hen. VI.

⁶ Dugdale's Monasticon.

⁷ Esch. 9 Hen. VIII.

The bishop of Bath and Wells is patron of the sinecure rectory. Upon a vacancy in the vicarage, the rector appoints one out of three persons, nominated by the president and scholars of Magdalen College, in Oxford. The parish has been inclosed, under an act of parliament, passed in 1770, when allotments of land were assigned to the rector and vicar, in lieu of tithes; and rents in lieu of tithes of the old inclosures. In the act of parliament, the president and scholars of Magdalen College are stated to be patrons of the vicarage.

ASTON-THOROLD or TIROLD, in the hundred of Moreton and deanery of Abingdon, lies about five miles south-west of Wallingford, and about the same distance north-east of Ilkley. It is the *Estone* or East-town of Domesday, and certainly not the site of the celebrated battle between the Danes and Saxons, which was fought at Ælsecfdune. A manor in this parish, which belonged to the abbey of Noion, in Normandy^a, is supposed to have been granted after the suppression of alien priories, to the De la Poles, Dukes of Suffolk, who were possessed of it in 1495^b. Another manor which had belonged to the abbey of Pratell, in Normandy, was granted by King Henry V. in 1413, to the priory of Witham, in Somersetshire. The manor of Aston-Tirolde, comprising, probably, both these estates, was given by Sir Ralph Sadler, to King Edward VI. in 1547. In the 17th century it was in the Sambourns, afterwards in moieties, between the families of Hatton and White; one moiety is now the property of Thomas Fuller esq. the other of Messrs. Joseph and John Fuller.

The president and scholars of St. Mary Magdalen College, Oxford, are patrons of the rectory. The parish was inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1742.

AVINGTON, in the hundred and deanery of Newbury, lies two miles and a half to the south-east of Hungerford. The manor belonged to the Longespees, Earls of Salisbury, from whom it passed successively by female heirs to the Lacys, Earls of Lincoln, and the Lords Strange of Knockin^c. It is probable, that at a later period it was in the families of Coventry and Choke. Rich Choke married the heiress of the Coventrys of Avington^d; his grandson, Francis, was knighted in 1643^e. Some years ago, the manor of Avington was in the family of Jones, of Ramsbury, in Wiltshire. William Langham esq. younger brother of the late Sir James Langham bart. having married the heiress of that family, took the name of Jones, and was created a baronet. Dying without issue, Avington, with several other Berkshire manors, devolved, upon the death of his widow, to Sir Francis Burdett bart. who is the present proprietor.

^a See Pat. 6 John.

^b Rot. Parl. VI. p. 475.

^c Dugdale's Baronage.

^d Berk-

shire Pedigrees in the British Museum.

^e Ant. Wood.

In the parish church, which exhibits a very curious specimen of Saxon architecture, and has a very singular font of rude workmanship^f, are some memorials of the family of James, of Denford. Sir Francis Burdett is patron of the rectory.

BARKHAM, in the hundred of Charlton, lies two miles and a half south-west of Wokingham, and about seven south-east of Reading. The manor is mentioned, in some ancient records, as an appendage to Finchampsted^g. In the 17th century it was in the Standens of Arborfield^h; afterwards in the Pitts, of Kingston, in Dorsetshire, and in the Fonnereaus: it was purchased of the latter, by the late Hon. Admiral Leveson Gower, and is now the property of his son, Colonel Leveson Gower, of Bill-Hill. Colonel Gower is patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Reading. The Rev. David Davies, the present incumbent, is author of a work, entitled "The Case of Labourers in Husbandry stated and considered."

BARRINGTON lies about three miles from Burford, near the road to Northleach. Though several miles distant from the rest of the county, about half of the village and parish is situated within an insulated part of Berkshire; the church being in Gloucestershire, it will be treated of in the description of that county.

BASILDEN, or BASILDON, in the hundred of Moreton, lies about 8 miles from Reading, on the road to Wallingford. It had formerly a weekly market granted by King Edward II. in 1309, together with a fair at the festival of St. Barnabasⁱ. A moiety of the manor was successively in the families of Boteler, St. Amand, and Braybroke^k; the other moiety in the De la Beches and Langfords^l. These moieties became afterwards united. The manor of Basilden was bequeathed by Rachael, Countess of Bath^m, to her nephew, Sir Henry Fane K. B. whose son was, in 1718, created Viscount Fane of the kingdom of Ireland. Basilden-park continued to be the seat of this noble family till the death of the last Lord Fane, in or about the year 1766, not long after which it was purchased of his only surviving sisters, the late Countess of Sandwich and the Countess de Salis, by Francis Sykes esq. who built a noble mansion at Basilden-park from the designs of Mr. Carr of York. Mr. Sykes was created a baronet in 1782. Upon his death, in 1804, Basilden-park devolved to his son, Sir Francis William Sykes bart. who

^f See p. 204 and 207.

^g See Nomina Villarum, anno 1316, in the British Museum.

^h Ashmole. ⁱ Cart. 2 Edw. II. ^k Cart. 2 Edw. II. Clauf. 25 Edw. III. & Esch. 4 Henry IV.

^l Esch. Edw. III. Ric. II. &c. ^m Second daughter of Francis, Earl of Westmorland; married first, to Henry Bouchier, Earl of Bath, afterwards to the Earl of Middlesex.

survived

survived him only a few months; being succeeded in his title and estates by his son Francis, a minor.

Thomas Yonge, the eldest son of Thomas Yonge, one of the justices of the Common Pleas in the reign of Edward IV. and ancestor of Sir George Yonge bart. settled at Basildenⁿ. His descendant, Roger Yonge esq. who died, in 1684, at the age of 96, "having been 60 years in the commission of the peace," lies buried in Basilden church. When the Norman Survey was taken, there were two churches at Basilden. It is probable that one of them was at Upper-Basilden, about two miles from the present parish church. The great tithes were formerly appropriated to the abbot and convent of Lyra, and afterwards to the college of Shottesbrooke^o; they are now the property of Sir Francis Sykes; he is patron also of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Wallingford. Basilden Heath was inclosed by an act of parliament passed in 1744.

BEEDON, formerly BUDON, in the hundred of Faircross, lies about 8 miles from Newbury, on the road to Oxford, and 2 miles and a half from Ilfley. It was formerly one of the seats of the Lisle family. Alice de Lisle had the royal licence to make a park at Beedon in 1336^p. It afterwards passed, by marriage, to the Berkeleys, and was probably one of the estates alienated from that noble family by the Marquis of Berkeley. This manor has been in the family of Reade for more than two centuries, and is now the property of the dowager Lady Reade, together with the manor of *Stanmore*, a hamlet of this parish, and the impropriate tithes, which formerly belonged to the abbot and convent of Abingdon. She is also patroness of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Newbury. Beedon church was formerly a chapel to Farnborough.

BEENHAM, in the hundred and deanery of Reading, lies on the north side of the Bath road, about 8 miles from Newbury, and about 10 from Reading. The manor belongs to the Rev. Sir Charles Rich bart. who purchased it in 1793; previously to which it had been, for a considerable time, in the Marquis of Annandale's family. The Rev. Mr. Bostock, elder brother of Sir Charles Rich, has a seat in this parish, which he inherited from the Hopsons. The Rev. Thomas Stackhouse, author of the History of the Bible and the Body of Divinity, was vicar of Beenham, and lies buried in the parish church, where is a tablet to his memory with the following inscription: "Juxta reconditum est quod mortale fuit Thomæ Stackhouse, A. M. hujus ecclesiæ per annos 19 vicarii, qui pro Christianâ

ⁿ Kimber's Baronetage.

^o See Leland's Itinerary, vol. v. p. 129.

^p Cart. 10 Edw. III.

fide strenuus admodum propugnator non sine gloriâ militavit ; qui plus scire volunt scripta sua consulant. Ex hâc vitâ, gratâ alterius vice corpore suo solutus emigravit Octobris Idibus A. S. 1752. Ætatis suæ 72." There are memorials in the parish church for the Hopsons and Beringtons. The great tythes, which were appropriated to the abbey of Reading, were purchased by Sir Charles Rich of Philip Lybbe Powys esq. in 1802. Mrs. Mary Stevens, widow of the late incumbent, is patroness of the vicarage.

BESILS-LEGH, in the hundred of Hormer and deanery of Abingdon, lies about 5 miles to the south-west of Oxford on the road to Faringdon. The manor belonged anciently to the family of Legh^a, from whom it passed, by a female heir, to that of Befils. On the death of William Befils esq. in 1516, the manor of Befils-Legh devolved to Edmund Fettiplace, who married Elizabeth, his daughter and sole heir^r. William Lenthall, speaker of the long parliament, purchased Befils-Legh of the Fettiplaces, and occasionally resided there ; his son, Sir John Lenthall, was governor of Windfor castle under Cromwell. He died in 1681, and lies buried at Befils-Legh, where are a few other memorials of the family. In the manor-house at this place, now pulled down, was formerly the celebrated picture of Sir Thomas More's family, now at the priory in Burford, the seat of John Lenthall esq. who is lord of the manor of Befils-Legh and patron of the rectory.

BINFIELD, in the hundred of Cookham, and deanery of Reading, is situated in Windfor forest about three miles north-east of Wokingham, and nearly 11 south-west of Windfor. The manor was, in 1548, surrendered by Lord Sandys to King Edward VI. and has ever since been in the crown. There are three inferior manors in the parish, the most extensive of which is the property of Claude Ruffel esq. who has a seat at Binfield. This estate, described as the manor of Binfield, was purchased, in 1595, of the Staffords of Bradfield, by John Dancastle esq. whose descendant of the same name conveyed it, in 1754, to William Pitt esq. uncle of the present William Moreton Pitt esq. by whom it was sold, under an act of parliament in 1778, to Buckworth Herne esq. By subsequent alienations it passed through the hands of William Coxe esq. and Lord Kinnaird ; of the latter it was purchased, in 1795, by the present proprietor. A second manor, called Depers, or Diaper, was some time ago the property of Mr. Webb, afterwards of Col. Hawley, and now of Mr. Zechariah Boulton. The

^a Thomas de Legh was lord of the manor in 1316. See *Nomina Villarum*. Harl. MSS. No. 6281.

^r Esch. 7 Hen. VIII.

The third, called Buckhurst, belongs to Mr. Charles Cove, and was some time ago the property of Robert Southey esq.

Binfield is generally said to have been the birth-place of Pope; but Dr. Wilson, the late rector, ascertained that he did not come there till he was six years of age. It is certain that this celebrated poet spent the early part of his life in this village; that the surrounding scenery of Windsor forest suggested some of the first effusions of his muse, and that he continued to reside at Binfield till he purchased the villa at Twickenham, which still goes by his name. The site of Pope's house at Binfield is now the residence of Thomas Neate esq.

There are several elegant villas at this place, the beauty of the situation, its vicinity to Windsor, and ready access to the metropolis, having been strong inducements to persons of fortune to fix themselves in so desirable a spot. The most conspicuous is that of Onesiphorus Elliot Elliot esq.

In the parish church are memorials of the family of Blount of Sodington, baronets; and of the families of Dancastle and Lee, the latter of whom, during a considerable part of the last two centuries, inhabited an old mansion, now pulled down, which stood near the eighth mile stone on the road to Windsor. After the extinction of the Lee family, it came by inheritance to Henry, Earl of Stirling, Secretary of State for Scotland, who resided at Binfield, and was buried there in 1739; as appears by his tomb in the chancel. The more modern monuments of note are those of Admiral Sir Edward Vernon, who commanded the British fleet at the taking of Pondicherry, and died in 1794; and of the celebrated female historian Catharine Macauley, who, after her marriage with a second husband, called herself Macauley Graham: she is described by that name on her monument, which is ornamented with her portrait on a medallion. Mrs. Macauley Graham died, in 1791, at Binfield, where she resided during the latter part of her life. The rectory of Binfield is in the gift of the crown.

BISHAM, anciently BISTEHAM or BUSTLEHAM, in the hundred of Barnerish and deanery of Reading, lies 4 miles and a half north-west of Maidenhead, and not quite a mile from Great Marlow in Buckinghamshire, on the opposite side of the river.

The manor was given by William the Conqueror to Henry de Ferrars; whose grandson, Robert Earl Ferrars, gave it, in the reign of King Stephen, to the Knights Templars, who are said to have had a preceptory there*. After the suppression of that order, it was successively in the possession of Thomas, Earl

* Leland.

of Lancaster^a, Hugh le Despencer^b, and Eubulo L'Esrange^c. In 1335, it was granted by king Edward III. to William Montacute, Earl of Salisbury^d, who, two years afterwards, procured the royal licence for founding a monastery at Bisham, for canons regular of the order of St. Austin, and endowing it with lands of 300*l. per ann.*^e Within the walls of this convent were interred the following noble persons: William, Earl of Salisbury, son of the founder, who distinguished himself at the battle of Poitiers^f; John, Earl of Salisbury, who, confederating against King Henry IV. was slain at Cirencester in 1401^g; Thomas, Earl of Salisbury, the famed hero of Henry the Fifth's reign, who lost his life at the siege of Orleans in 1428^h; Richard Neville, Earl of Salisbury and Warwick, who was beheaded at York, in 1460, for his adherence to the house of Lancasterⁱ; Richard Neville, the great Earl of Warwick and Salisbury, and his brother John, Marquis of Montague, who both fell at the battle of Barnet, 1470^j; and the unfortunate Edward Plantagenet, Earl of Warwick, son of the Duke of Clarence^k, who, bred up from his cradle in prison, was beheaded in 1499 for attempting to taste the sweets of liberty. The founder is said to have been buried at the White Friars^l; his son directed, by his will, that a monument should be erected to his memory at Bisham^m. Most of the above-mentioned illustrious characters had splendid monuments in the conventual church, but these were all destroyed after the dissolution of the abbey, without regard to the rank or famed exploits of the deceased, nor even excepting the tomb of Salisbury, "the mirror of all martial men—who in thirteen battles overcame—and first trained Henry V. to the warsⁿ."

The priory of Bisham was surrendered to the king at the time of the dissolution of the smaller monasteries in 1536, although it does not seem to have fallen under the description of those to which the act of parliament extended, for its rental amounted to 28*l.* 1*1s.* 0*d.* $\frac{1}{2}$ clear yearly value. The next year the king restored the convent, increasing its possessions with the lands of the abbey of Chertsey, and the dissolved priories of Ankerwyke, Little Marlow, and Medmenham, and changing its establishment to an abbot and 13 monks of the Benedictine order^o. The general dissolution of monasteries happened soon afterwards, when its revenues were estimated at 66*l.* 1*4s.* 9*d.* *per ann.* William Barlow, who was prior of Bisham at the first surrender in 1536, was made bishop of St. Asaph that year, and

^a See Pat. 15 E. II. ^b Ibid. ^c Pat. 8 Edw. III. ^d Pat. 9 Edw. III. ^e Pat. 11 Edw. III. ^f Dugdale. ^g His body was first buried in the abbey at Cirencester, whence it was removed to Bisham by Maud his widow. See Dugdale's Baronage, and the Monasticon.

^h Brooke's Catalogue of Nobility. ⁱ He was first buried at Pomfret, but afterwards removed to Bisham. See Brooke's Catalogue of Nobility. ^j Dugdale's Baronage. ^k Brooke's Catalogue of Nobility. ^l See Dugdale. ^m Ibid. ⁿ Shakspeare. ^o Magna Britannia.

was successively translated to St. David's, Bath and Wells, and Chichester. He married after the Reformation; and it is remarkable that he had five daughters, who were all married to bishops¹. King Edward VI. granted the site of Bisham abbey to his father's repudiated wife, Anne of Cleve, who having surrendered it to the crown again in 1552^m, it was then given to Sir Philip Hoby, a zealous protestant, who had been of the privy council to King Henry VIII. Queen Elizabeth paid a visit to his nephew, Sir Edward Hoby, in 1592ⁿ. This Sir Edward was governor of Queenborough castle, and a gentleman of the privy chamber. He was a distinguished speaker in the four last parliaments of Queen Elizabeth. As a writer, he displayed his talents only in controversial divinity. The learned Camden, who dedicated his *Hibernia* to him, has taken more than one opportunity of commending his abilities and acknowledging his friendship. Sir Edward Hoby died in 1617. Anthony Wood says, that he left a natural son, Peregrine, by one Catharine Pinkney, from whom the Hobys of Bisham descended; but the Baronetage of 1727 makes Peregrine the son of Sir Edward by his third wife, who was of the Umpton family. Edward Hoby, son of Peregrine, was created a baronet in 1666. The Rev. Sir Philip Hoby bart. the last heir male of the family, died in 1766, when this estate went to the Mills of Hampshire, who were connected with the Hobys by marriage. Bisham abbey is now the seat of George Vansittart esq. one of the knights of the shire, who purchased it with the manor, of the widow of Sir John Hoby Mill bart. who died in 1780. There are no remains of the conventual buildings, except an ancient door-way, now the entrance of the house.

In an aisle, or chapel, adjoining the parish church, is a window richly ornamented with the arms and quarterings of the Hoby family. This chapel was built by the widow of Sir Thomas Hoby, one of the learned daughters of Sir Anthony Coke, of Gidea hall in Essex, for the sepulture of her husband, who, being ambassador at Paris, died there in the year 1566; being cut off in the prime of life, as Anthony Wood observes, acting too zealously for his mistress. His body was brought to England and interred in this chapel, whither Lady Hoby caused the body of his elder brother, Sir Philip, who died in 1558, to be removed, and erected to their memory a very costly monument, with their effigies in armour. It is inscribed with a long epitaph in Latin verse, written by Lady Hoby; whose compositions of this nature are very numerous. Sir Thomas Hoby published a translation of Castiglione's Courtier. There is a very handsome monument also for Lady Hoby, who afterwards became the wife of John Lord Russel, and another for Margaret, wife of Sir Edward Hoby.

¹ Biograph. Brit.

^m Records in the Augmentation Office.

ⁿ Queen Elizabeth's Progresses.

Stubbins, in this parish, formerly the seat of Charles Ambler esq. is now the property and residence of the Earl of Dorchester, who has lately purchased it of Elisha Biscoe esq.

Temple-house, in this parish, was built by the late Thomas Williams esq. M. P. for Marlow, and proprietor of the Temple Mills, where an extensive manufacture of brass and copper has been carried on for nearly a century. It is now the property and seat of his son, Owen Williams esq. who succeeded his father in the representation of the borough of Marlow.

The great tithes of Bisham, formerly appropriated to the abbey, are now the property of Mr. Vanfittart, who is patron of the vicarage.

BLEWBURY, in the hundred of Reading, lies about eight miles south-east of Abingdon, nearly seven miles south-west of Wallingford, and about four miles north-east of Ilfley. The manor belonged to Reading abbey. After the dissolution it continued, for a considerable time, in the crown. It is now the property of John Phillips esq. whose uncle purchased it, in 1762, of the representatives of Francis Cottington esq. who died in 1754. Mr. Cottington, whose family had been many years in possession of this manor^o, was a collateral descendant of Francis, Lord Cottington, king Charles's secretary.

The manor of Nottingham's-fee, in Blewbury, which belonged formerly to the family of Kidwelly, is now the property of Mr. Thomas Humfrey.

In the parish church are some ancient memorials for the family of Latton, who, so early as the year 1324^p, had a seat at Upton, in this parish, where they continued during the following, and a part of the 16th century. Dame Alice Daunce, wife of Sir John Daunce, surveyor-general to king Henry VIII. who died in 1523, as appears by her epitaph, was of this family. The impropriate rectory, to which a manor is annexed, was formerly the corps of a prebend in the church of Sarum, and appears to have been given to the bishops of that diocese, as an augmentation of their fee. It is now held under the bishop, on a beneficial lease, by the corporation of the sons of the clergy. The bishop is patron of the vicarage, which lies within the deanery of Abingdon.

There are chapels of ease at *Upton* and *Aston-Upthorpe*, two hamlets in this parish. There were anciently two manors in Upton: Upton-Moels, which, on the death of the last Lord Moels, in 1337, passed, by a female heir, to the Lords Botreaux^q, and was afterwards in the family of Kidwelly^r and Upton-Ruffels, which, in 1297, was in the Ruffels^s, and afterwards, successively, in the families of

^o Court Rolls of the Manor.

^p Ashmole.

^q Esch. 11 Edw. III. and 2 Edw. IV.

^r Esch. Rich. III. and Eliz.

^s Esch. 25 Ed. I.

Chelrey^t, Bekyngham^u, Windfor^x, and White^y. There is now only one manor in this hamlet, which is the property of Mr. Phillips. It was purchased by his uncle of the Tomkins family, who had possessed it for many years. The tithes of Upton belonged formerly to the prior and convent of Bermondsey, to whom they were given, in 1072, by Wynebald de Baalun^z. Certain common fields in Upton were inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1790; the hamlet of Aston-Uphorpe, by an act passed in 1792, and the parish of Blewbury, by an act, passed in 1803: the lands were not, by either act, exonerated from tithes.

A school-house was built in the church-yard at Blewbury, in 1709, by Mr. William Malthus, who endowed it with lands at Noke, in Oxfordshire, for the education of 30 boys and 30 girls. Mr. Middleton Bacon founded an alms-house for one poor man in 1735.

BOXFORD, anciently BOXORE, in the hundred of Faircross, lies four miles from Newbury, near the road to Lambourn. The manor seems to have belonged, at a very early period, to the abbot and convent of Abingdon, as a member of Welford. It has passed through the same hands since the dissolution, and is now the property of John Archer Houblon esq. The manor of *Westbrook*, a hamlet in this parish, is claimed by Mr. Houblon, as a member of Boxford, and by Lord Craven, as an appendage to Benham-Valence. Both parties appoint game-keepers.

Mrs. Wells, wife of the present incumbent, is patroness of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Newbury. *Ounham* and *Wyfield*, or *Wifehold*, are hamlets in this parish: at the former was a chapel of ease, which has been destroyed many years.

BRADFIELD, in the hundred of Theale, lies eight miles to the south-west of Reading. King Ina founded a monastery here before the year 699, as appears by a grant of that monarch to the abbot and convent of Abingdon^a. It is probable, that it was not of long continuance, as there is no other record of its existence.

The manor was anciently in the baronial family of Somery^b, who appear to have had a seat here. In 1325, it was granted to Hugh le Despencer^c. It was afterwards in the Suttons. John Sutton sold it to Sir Nicholas De la Beche, for an annuity of 50 marks^d. When John Dalton forcibly carried away Margaret,

^t Esch. 9 Hen. IV.

^u Esch. 16 Edw. IV.

^x Esch. Car. I.

^y In 1669 it

belonged to James White, of Putney, whose grandson sold it to the Rev. Michael Johnson—
Papers in the possession of William Bray esq.

^z Manning's Surrey, vol. I. p. 192.

^a Dugdale's Monasticon.

^b Esch. Edw. I. and Edw. II.

^c Dugdale's Baronage.

^d Parl. Rot. vol. II. p. 176.

Lady De la Beche, and married her, the king seized on this manor, and granted a lease of it to Michael le Poyning^e. It reverted afterwards to the Langfords, as representatives of the De la Beches. Sir William Langford, who was sheriff of Berkshire and Oxfordshire in 1404, resided at Bradfield, and was buried there. The family became extinct in 1509^f. This manor was afterwards in the Staffords^g. About the year 1700, it was purchased by Sir Samuel Thompson. In 1754, William Thompson esq. sold it to Henry Stevens esq. grandfather of the Rev. Henry Stevens, who is now lord of the manor, patron of the rectory, and incumbent. The advowson of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Reading, was purchased in 1750, by the grandfather of Mr. Stevens, of Mr. Septimus Turton. Some ancient flint walls, and other traces of building on the site of the manor-house, seem to denote, that it was a mansion of considerable consequence. The old barn, which still remains, is 191 feet in length. Bradfield-house, the residence of Mr. Stevens, is supposed to have been the lodge. A mansion in this parish, called Bradfield-Hall, was built a few years ago, by Stephen Wilson esq. who is the present proprietor.

Rushall, a nominal manor in this parish, is the property of Mr. Bunny, of Newbury. Elias Ashmole, the celebrated herald and antiquary, had an estate in this parish, which he acquired by his marriage with Lady Mainwaring, relict of Sir Thomas Mainwaring, recorder of London, and daughter of Sir William Forster, of Aldermaston^h. In the parish church are memorials for the families of Thompson and Blandy.

Dr. Fordage, a celebrated enthusiast, placed by Baxter at the head of the Behmenists, was rector of Bradfield; he was rejected in 1654, when William Lloyd, afterwards bishop of Worcester, was presented by Elias Ashmole; but he resigned it soon afterwards to avoid a law-suit, the right of presentation being claimed by Sir Humphrey Forsterⁱ.

BRAY gives name to a hundred, which is only co-extensive with the parish. It lies in the deanery of Reading, about five miles north-west of Windsor, and about a mile and a half nearly south of Maidenhead.

The principal manor has been from time immemorial in the crown, having been occasionally granted for life to some of the younger branches of the royal family: of late years it has been leased out to private persons. The last lease, which was granted in 1771, to Charles Ambler esq. was purchased in 1783, by Lord Brudenell.

^e Parl. Rolls, vol. II. p. 176.

^f Esch. 1 Hen. VIII.

^g Esch. Eliz.

^h Life of Ashmole.

ⁱ Coates's History of Reading, p. 110.

now Earl of Cardigan, in trust for his Majesty. The most remarkable custom of this manor is, that, in default of male heirs, lands are not divided among females of the same degree of kindred, but descend solely to the eldest^k.

The manor of Crafwell, or Creswells, in this parish, was given by Sir John St. Philbert to king Edward III. and by him granted to the dean and chapter of Windsor, under whom it has ever since been held on lease. The lease, which had been many years vested in the family of Meeke, was sold, about the year 1780, to Mr. Fuller, the banker. The old manor-house on this estate is uninhabited.

The manor of Foxleys, which took its name from the family of Foxley, to whom it belonged in the 14th century^l, was afterwards successively in the families of Murray and Banning. It is now the property of Mr. Vansittart, a minor; his grandfather, Henry Vansittart esq. who was lost in the Aurora frigate, purchased it, in 1765, of William Mackworth Praed esq.

The manor of Ocholt, or Ockholt, belonged at an early period to the family of Norreys, ancestors of the Lords Norreys of Rycote. Richard de Norreys, cook to Eleanor, Queen of Henry III. had a grant of Ocholt from that monarch in 1267, subject to a fee-farm rent of forty shillings. The grant states it to have been an encroachment from the forest^m. Sir William Norreys, who was commander in the king's army at the battle of Stokeⁿ, died seized of this estate in 1507^o. It was afterwards in the Fettiplaces^p. The family of Finch, of Hertfordshire, became possessed of it about the year 1679; in 1786, they sold it to the late Penyston Portlock Powney esq. in whose representatives it is now vested. The manor house, which is an ancient structure, was a seat of the Norreys family. In the hall is a large bay window full of coats of arms in stained glass, among which are those of the abbey of Abingdon with the mitre, and of the Norreys family, several times repeated, with their motto "Feythfully serve." This ancient family had two other manors in this parish, Mores, or Moores, and Hynden. The manor, or reputed manor of Moores, has since passed through a variety of hands. It was the property of the late George Proctor esq. whose family purchased it in the year 1738. The manor of Hynden having been purchased of Lord Norris, about the year 1609, by Sir Thomas Bodley, was given by him to the University of Oxford, for the support of the public library, which he had then lately founded^q. There is another reputed manor called Hendens, which was successively in the

^k From the information of James Payn esq. steward of the manor, who has favoured us with many particulars from the Court Rolls, relating to the other manors.

^l Esch. Edw. II. and Edw. III. John Foxley had a licence to make a park. See Edw. II.

^m Pat. 52 Hen. III. ⁿ Dugdale's Baronage. ^o Esch. 22 Hen. VII. ^p Esch. Hen. VIII.

^q See his letter annexed to Hearne's Chron. Glaston. p. 634.

families of Folham and Winder. It was purchased in 1762 by Sir Thomas Reeve, and is now the property and residence of the Rev. Dr. Trenchard, who married his elder daughter. In 1444 John Bray, esquire of the body to king Henry VI. held in fee a house and lands, said to have been formerly called John of Bray's place, and afterwards *Hevyndens*^r, perhaps one of the above-mentioned estates.

The manor of Ives, which extends into the parish of Cookham, belonged to Bisham abbey, and was afterwards granted for life to Anne of Cleve. In 1610 it was granted to George Salter and John Williams, by whom it was sold to Sir William Garway in 1617^s. In 1649 it was alienated by the Garways to John Whitfield esq. from whom it passed by marriage to the Powneys. In 1794, it was purchased, in trust for his Majesty, by Gen. Goldsworthy. Ives place near Maidenhead, which was the seat of the Powneys, is now the property and residence of Thomas Wyatt esq.

The manor of Lowbrooke, alias Lillybrooke, was the property of the late Henry Partridge esq. some time Chief Justice of Ely, in whose family it is known to have been as early as the year 1659. It now belongs to his son, who is a minor.

Fyfield house, a reputed manor or manor-farm, was many years in the family of Winch, and descended from them to the Micklems, in whom it is now vested.

At Holyport, a hamlet in this parish, is a mansion called Chuffs, which was in the family of Hayes from the year 1674 till after the death of the late James Hayes esq. some time one of his Majesty's justices for Wales, whose second son, Charles Hayes esq. resides in another house at Holyport. It now belongs to Mr. Thomas Waghorn.

Down-place, in this parish, was the residence of Jacob Tonson the bookseller; afterwards of the Duke of Argyle. It is now the seat of John Huddleston esq. who purchased it of Mr. Barker Church.

Braywick and *Holyport* are considerable hamlets in this parish. There are several clusters of houses in other parts of the parish, as Oakley-green, East-Oakley, Fyfield, and Tutchin-end. The south side of Maidenhead is in the parish of Bray. Between that town and the bridge is the villa of Sir William Herne, alderman of London. At Braywick, are Braywick house, the seat of the Hon. Thomas Windfor, and Braywick lodge, that of Thomas Slack esq.

Gay's house, in this parish, the seat of Lord Lindores, came into his Lordship's possession in right of his lady, who was the younger daughter and co-heir of the

^r Pat. 3 Hen. VI.

^s Ashmole.

late Sir Thomas Reeve. Mr. Townly Ward has a villa in this parish, called the Willows: he has a *ferme ornée* also, called Bullock's Hatch; and is the present lessee of Monkey-island, so called from a whimsical structure (ornamented with figures of monkeys), built by the late Duke of Marlborough.

The principal monuments in the parish-church at Bray, are those of Sir William Paule, 1685, and William Norreys esq. usher of the order of the Garter, 1592. There are some memorials for the family of Hanger. Ashmole has recorded the tombs of Sir William Laken, one of the justices of the King's Bench, 1475; some of the Foxley family, 1436, &c.; Sir Thomas Stewkly, 1569, &c.

The great tithes of this parish were appropriated to the abbot and convent of Cirencester. King Edward VI. in 1547, granted the rectorial manor, together with the advowson of the vicarage, to John King, bishop of Oxford, and his successors in that see. Canon-Hill, the seat of James Law esq. is the rectorial house, held on lease by him, under the see of Oxford. The late Henry Partridge esq. was lessee of a portion of the tithes; the lease is now vested in his son, a minor; the remainder are held on lease, by the heirs of the late Jacob Wilkinson esq.

Fuller, in his Worthies of England, published in 1661, relates a story of the versatility of a vicar of this parish, who is said to have conformed readily to every change of religion, during the reign of Henry VIII. and his three immediate successors, and to have been steady only in one principle, which was to live and die Vicar of Bray. The writer of the well-known song of the Vicar of Bray has altered the date of the original story, applying it to the 17th century, and making the vicar's versatility shew itself by the frequent variation of his political principles. Thomas Brown, vicar of this parish, died in 1759, at the great age of 94, as appears by his epitaph. The parish of Bray has been inclosed, under an act of parliament, passed in 1786; the lands were not exonerated from tithes.

There is an alms-house at Bray, called Jesus Hospital, founded by William Goddard esq. in the year 1627, for 40 poor persons, six of whom must be free of the Fishmongers Company: these have an allowance of 12 shillings a-week, if married; seven shillings, if single. The remainder of the pensioners must be persons 50 years of age, who have been house-holders in the parish of Bray, for 20 years; their allowance is two shillings a-week. They all have wood and coals, and a gown or coat every year. William Cherry esq. founded a school for the education of 20 poor boys, and endowed it with lands, which produce an income of about 30*l. per annum*. The master's salary is 20*l.* Bray is by some supposed to have been the *Bibraete* of Richard of Cirencester^a.

^a See p. 201.

BRIGHT-WALTHAM, alias BRIGHT-WALTON, commonly called Brickleton, in the hundred of Faircross, lies about nine miles nearly north of Newbury. The manor, which belonged to the abbey of Battle in Suffex, was granted by king Henry VIII. to Sir William and Thomas Effex^b. It was afterwards for many years in the family of Eyre, of whom it was purchased, in 1800, by the present proprietor, the Rev. William Wroughton, of Woolly Park. Mr. James Cole is patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Newbury. The rector and church-wardens have a right of sending two boys of this parish to the school at Chaddleworth.

BRIGHTWELL, in the hundred of Moreton, and deanery of Abingdon, lies about two miles west of Wallingford. There was formerly a castle at this place, which in 1153 was delivered up, by King Stephen, to Henry II. then Duke of Normandy, pursuant to an agreement made between them, when the peace was concluded^c at Wallingford, and probably was then demolished. Its site is not known, but it is probable that it stood within the moat where is now the manor farm. The principal manor has belonged, from time immemorial, to the see of Winchester: the bishop holds a court annually, as lord paramount.

In the parish church is the following memorial for Thomas Godwyn, author of a well-known treatise on the Roman and Jewish Antiquities: "*Depositum Thomæ Godwyn, S. T. P. viri integerrimi, pietate, literaturâ, morum suavitate spectabilis, rectoris hujus ecclesiæ vigilantissimi, cujus merita melius posteris transmittent scripta quam marmor. Hunc lapidem uxor ejus Phelipps Godwyn amoris ergo mærens posuit. Obiit Martii 20. Anno Dom. 1642.*" There is a memorial also for Robert Court, some time auditor to Prince Arthur, who died in 1509. He was proprietor of the manor of Makeney, in this parish, and built a house there for his residence^d. This manor belonged, some time since, to Matthew Martin esq. in whose family it had been a considerable time: having undergone an intermediate alienation, it is now the property of Robert Dalzell esq. of Wallingford. The bishop of Winchester is patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Wallingford; besides the tithes of this parish, the rector is entitled also to the greater part of those arising from an estate, in the parish of Harwell, belonging to the see of Winchester.

Anthony Wood says, that Bishop Gauden was rector of this parish in 1635; but he was evidently misinformed, for it appears, that Dr. Thomas Godwyn abovementioned was rector from the year 1629, if not before, till his death in 1642^e; Edward Bernard, a learned astronomer, and Savilian professor of that science in the uni-

^b Records in the Augmentation Office. ^c Mat. Paris, p. 72. ^d Leland. ^e From the information of Mr. Wintle. It appears, by the parish register, that Frances, the wife of Thomas Godwyn, rector, was buried at Abingdon, in 1629.

verſity of Oxford, was rector from 1691 to 1697^f. The Rev. Thomas Wintle, the preſent rector, has diſtinguiſhed himſelf as an Hebraiſt, particularly by his able tranſlation of the prophet Daniel.

BRIMPTON, in the hundred of Faircrofs, lies about fix miles ſouth-eaſt of Newbury. The manor belonged formerly to the Brimptons^g, afterwards to the family of Stoke^h. The Wollaſcots, a Roman Catholic family, poſſeſſed it for nearly two centuries; upon the death of the laſt heir male, it paſſed by marriage to the Earl of Fingal, who ſold it, about the year 1786, to the late John Crewe eſq. of Boſeſworth Caſtle, in Cheſhire, together with the manor of Salford, in this pariſh, both now the property of his widow.

The Knights Templars are ſaid to have had a preceptory at Brimpton. When the ſurvey of Domeſday was taken, there were two churches in this pariſh; one in Roger de Lacy's manor, the other in Robert Fitzgerald's. Adjoining to a farm-
houſe, about half a mile from the church, are the remains of an ancient eccleſiaſtical building. In the pariſh church are ſome memorials of the Wollaſcots. The great tithes of this pariſh, together with the patronage of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Newbury, have long been annexed to the manor. *Hide-end* is a hamlet in this pariſh.

BUCKLAND, in the hundred of Ganfield, lies a little to the north of the London road, four miles from Faringdon. The manor was, in 1227, the property of Hugh de Bocland, either ſon or grand-ſon of Hugh de Bocland, the grand-Juſticiar or chief-Juſtice of England; his grand-daughter, Matilda, brought it in marriage to William D'Averanches, a Norman baron. They had a daughter who married Hamon Crevequer, and left co-heireſſes, one of whom (Ifolda) having married Nicholas de Lenham, this manor was enjoyed by their poſterity, till about the year 1376, when it was recovered, after a long ſuit, by Sir Thomas Beſils, as being deſcended from a daughter of John D'Averanches, ſon of William and Matilda; whereas the Lenhams were deſcended from a daughter, who, as was before-mentioned, married Hamon Crevequerⁱ. The manor, thus recovered, continued in the Beſils family till 1425, or later. Thomas Chaucer, ſon of the poet, was poſſeſſed of it in 1436; his daughter, Alice, brought it in marriage to William De la Pole, Duke of Suffolk. Upon the attainder of Edmund De la Pole, Earl of Suffolk, King Henry VIII. granted it to his favourite Sir Charles Brandon, whom he

^f Biograph Brit.

^g Cart. Edw. II. Eſch. Edw. III.

^h Eſch. 5 H. VI.

ⁱ From the papers of the Rev. Dr. Rawbone, who has been many years making collections for this pariſh, from which he has obligingly permitted us to take notes.

created Duke of Suffolk : in 1535, the duke gave it back to the king in exchange, under an act of parliament, which was obtained for that purpose. In 1545 it was granted to the family of Yate. Edward Yate, the fourth in descent of the Yates of Buckland, was created a baronet in 1622. Sir Robert Throckmorton bart. of Coughton, in Warwickshire, who died in 1721, married Mary, daughter of Sir Charles Yate bart. sister and heiress of Sir John Yate, by whose death, in 1690, the title of baronet in the Yate family became extinct. The present lord of the manor is Sir John Throckmorton bart. who has a handsome seat, built by his father Sir Robert, about the year 1757. Wood, of Bath, was the architect.

A manor in Buckland, which had belonged to the Knights Hospitallers, was granted in 1544, to John Yate and Tobias Pleydell. Yate having purchased Pleydell's share, it has since passed with the principal manor^k, being now the property of Sir John Throckmorton.

The manor of Carfwell, in this parish, was granted to Sir Richard Abberbury, in 1385, as a compensation for the sums of money he had expended on the king's account, whilst he was guardian to him, in his minority^l. Sir Richard Abberbury sold it, in 1393, to Katherine Befils and her son Peter, from whose family it passed, by a female heir, to the Fettiplaces, of East Shefford. In 1577, Sir John Fettiplace sold it to John Southby^m, in whose family it continued more than two centuries. Henry Southby esq. who died in 1797, bequeathed it to his nephew, the late Sir Thomas Hayward, whose only daughter and heir brought it in marriage to the present proprietor, T. W. Chamberlain Perfect esq. The manor-house was for many years a seat of the Southbys.

The manor of Barcot, in this parish, was in the family of Holcot or Hulcote, from 1292 till 1575, when William Hulcote, the last of the family, left it to a nephew of the name of Hutchinsonⁿ. This William Hulcote was a man of very singular character; he was imprisoned for his religion in the reign of Queen Mary, but, to escape the fire, subscribed the articles: After the reformation, he became a zealous lay-preacher, and was accustomed to mount the pulpit in a velvet bonnet and damask gown, and sometimes with a gold chain^o: his will, which is very quaint and whimsical, directs his heart to be buried at Buckland. In the reign of Charles I. the manor of Barcot was purchased by Sir Henry Marten^p, Judge Advocate General, father of the profligate Harry Marten, the regicide, who squandered away the whole of that fortune which his father had acquired by his professional labours. This manor is now the property of Mrs. Loder, relict of the late Charles Loder esq. of Lechlade, in whose family it had been for many years.

^k Dr. Rawbone's Papers.

^l Pat. 9 Rich. II.

^m Dr. Rawbone's Collections.

ⁿ Ibid.

^o Ant. Wood.

^p Dr. Rawbone's Collections.

Mr. Loder has bequeathed the reversion, after the death of his widow and brother, to Charles Stevens esq. of Kencot, in Oxfordshire.

The manor of Newenton or Newington, in this parish, was granted, in 1544, to Sir Alexander Unton. It was afterwards in the family of Keate. In 1620 it was purchased by Sir Henry Pratt, in whose family it continued about 100 years, and was then sold in lots. The priory of Goring had an estate in this parish.

In the parish church are memorials of the families of Hulcote, Yate, and Southby. The manor of the rectory was purchased of Sir Thomas Befils, by William de Edindon, bishop of Winchester, and given by him to his newly-erected monastery of Bonnes-hommes, at Edindon, in Wiltshire^a. At the dissolution it was annexed to the see of Bristol, under which it has been long held on lease, by the families of Yate and Throckmorton. Sir John Throckmorton, as lessee, is patron of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Abingdon. The parish of Buckland has been inclosed, by an act of parliament, passed in 1802, when an allotment of land was given to the vicar, in lieu of tithes; the parish was then estimated to contain 2074 acres. The lands were not exonerated from the great tithes. There is a small parochial library at Buckland. The late Mr. Southby, left an endowment of lands, now let at 2cl. *per annum*, and 200l. S. S. annuities, for the endowment of a Sunday school. Mrs. Hayter gave the farther sum of 200l. S. S. annuities.

BURGHILDBURY, or BUCKLEBURY, in the hundred of Reading, lies seven miles to the north-east of Newbury. The manor, which belonged to Reading abbey, was granted, in 1539, to John Winchcombe^r, son of the opulent clothier of that name, known by the appellation of Jack of Newbury. Henry Winchcombe esq. of Bucklebury, was created a baronet in 1661. Sir Henry Winchcombe, who died in 1703, left two daughters, co-heiresses; Frances, the elder, was married to the celebrated Lord Bolingbroke, who, in her right, possessed this estate, and occasionally resided at Bucklebury: leaving no issue, the manor of Bucklebury descended to the Packers, as heirs of the younger daughter. Henry Packer esq. the last heir male of this family, left it to his sister's son, the late Winchcombe Henry Hartley esq. who was one of the representatives of the county, and died in 1794; it is now the property of his only child, Winchcombe Henry Howard Hartley, a minor. The manor-house, which was built by John Winchcombe, the grantee, is now occupied by a tenant. In one of the bed-chambers is a portrait of Mr. Winchcombe, with the date 1550, and his age 61. There is a copy of this picture, which has been erroneously supposed to have been intended for John Winchcombe, the father, in a room over the new market-house, at Newbury.

^a Dr. Rawbone's Collections.

^r Records in the Augmentation Office.

In the parish church are memorials of Frances Lady Bolingbroke, and several of the families of Winchcombe, Packer, and Hartley. In the church-yard is a large yew-tree, nine yards in girth. The great tithes of Bucklebury, which at the time of the reformation were appropriated to the abbey of Reading¹, are now annexed to the manor, together with the advowson of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Newbury. The manor of *Marston* or *Martlestone*, a hamlet in this parish, belonged to the family of Norreys, in the reign of Henry VII.² afterwards to the Braybrookes³. Sir Jeffrey Martell, being possessed of this manor, built a chapel at Marston, and agreed with the then vicar of Bucklebury, to officiate in it every other Sunday, upon payment of a quarter of wheat and a quarter of miffen, at Christmas, and certain monies at Easter; this payment has long ceased, but the duty is continued. Richard Wightwick, the founder of Pembroke College in Oxford, being possessed of this manor, left the fee of it to the College, subject to a lease of 500 years to his own family; and either he himself, or one of his successors in the estate, charged it, in the mean time, with an annuity of 70*l. per annum* to the college. The last heir male died in 1728, leaving two daughters, the survivor of whom, Mrs. Wyld, having no issue, bequeathed her interest in this estate to a female friend, from whom it passed to the present proprietor, Mrs. Sarah Ouchterlony. The manor of Marston is held under the abbey manor at East-Hendred. The rectorial tithes of this hamlet are annexed to the vicarage of Bucklebury. There are two other hamlets in the parish, called *Chapel-row* and *Hawteridge*. Some lands in Hawteridge are in the parish of Sutton-Courteney, near Abingdon. The parish of Bucklebury has a right of sending children to the school, founded by Lady Frances Winchcombe, at Thatcham; in which, at present, there are twenty children from this parish.

BURFIELD, in the hundred of Theale, lies about five miles to the south-west of Reading. A manor in Burfield, which belonged to Reading abbey, (having been annexed to the office of Almoner,) was granted by King Henry VIII. in 1540, to Sir John Williams⁴, who appears to have resided at the manor-house of this estate, called Burfield Place; his second son was created Lord Williams, of Thame. This manor descended to the Norris family, and was afterwards the property of Sir William Coventry, of whom it was purchased, in 1689, by Francis Parry esq. who had been envoy to Portugal, in the reign of Charles II. Three-fourths of this estate were sold by his representatives, in 1742, to the Earl of Uxbridge, and purchased of the Earl's grandson, by the late Bernard Brocas esq. husband of Mrs. Brocas, the

¹ They had been appropriated to the hospital, founded by Abbot Hugh, and were confirmed to it by Bishop Herbert. See Coates's History of Reading, p. 279. It is most probable that they fell into the hands of the abbey, on the suppression of that hospital.

² Esch.

³ Esch. Eliz.

⁴ Records in the Augmentation Office.

present proprietor. The other fourth is now the property of the Rev. Dr. Morgan, prebendary of Gloucester, whose mother was one of the sisters and co-heirs of Charles Parry esq. who died in 1740.

The manor of Burfield or Nethercourt, in Burfield, now the principal manor, was in 1441 the property of Sir John Drayton^y, one of whose daughters brought it in marriage to the Barentynes. Not long afterwards it became vested in the crown, and was granted by King Henry VII. in tail male to Sir Gilbert Talbot^z, from whom it descended to the present proprietor, the Earl of Shrewsbury.

In the parish church is an ancient tomb, with the figure of a crusader, in wood. Lord Shrewsbury is patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Reading. The bridge over the Kennet, near this place, is of great antiquity; a toll was granted for its repair in 1280^a.

BUSCOT, anciently BURWARDSCOT, in the hundred of Shrivenham, and deanery of Abingdon, lies about five miles from Faringdon, on the road to Cirencester, and about one mile from Lechlade, in Gloucestershire. The manor was in the ancient family of Stonor, of Oxfordshire, in the year 1479^b, and probably at a much earlier period: in 1557 it was purchased of Sir Francis Stonor, by Walter Loveden esq. The first of the Loveden family, who resided in this county, came from Crenden, in Buckinghamshire^c, where his family were of considerable antiquity, and settled at Lambourn, having married an heiress of the family of Erle, of that place: they afterwards removed to Fyfield and Buscot. Edward Loveden esq. in whom the male line became extinct, died a bachelor in 1749, having bequeathed his estates to his great-nephew, Edward Loveden Townsend, the present proprietor, then an infant, and, by his will, directed that he should take his name and arms. Buscot-house, the seat of Mr. Loveden, was begun in 1780, and completed in 1783. It forms a conspicuous object from the Faringdon road: the park is laid out on the site of a farm, which was re-purchased by Mr. Loveden, after having been out of the family 150 years. The manors of Mychell's Court and Paynell's Court, so called probably from families to whom they belonged at a remote period^d, have been held with the manor of Buscot, ever since the time of the Stonors. Mychell's Court was before in the family of Maundeville^e. The manor of Philpot's Court, in this parish, was, it is probable, the property of the Baron St. Philibert, lord of the adjoining manor of Eaton-Hastings, and took its name, though now strangely transformed, from him. William De la Pole, Duke

^y Cl. Hen. VI.
Papers.

^z Rot. Parl. VI. 477.

^a Pat. 8 Edw. I.

^b Mr. Loveden's

^c They were originally of Lincolnshire.

^d Paynell's Court was certainly, in 1326, the property of Richard Paynell, and was then called a third part of the manor of Buscot. Placit apud West.

^e Cl. Edw. III.

of Suffolk, died, seized of it by the name of Phelberdes^f. It was afterwards by grant, it is probable, in the Beckinghams, from whom it passed, by an heir female, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, to the Windfors. In 1639 Sir Andrew Windfor sold it to Sir Edward Yate bart. whose son John settled it on his daughter Anne, wife of the Hon. Thomas Talbot. It became afterwards, either by purchase or failure of issue, the property of Sir Robert Throckmorton bart. who married Mary Yate, sister of Mrs. Talbot, and was purchased of the late baronet by Mr. Loveden. This parish, which contains about 2850 acres of land, was inclosed by a decree of Chancery, in 1614. The composition then made for tithes was set aside by the late rector, who instituted a suit in Chancery for that purpose. Mr. Loveden is patron of the rectory, which is now valued at nearly 700*l. per annum*.

CATMERE, in the hundred of Kentbury-Eagle, lies about ten miles north of Newbury, and about four miles nearly west of Ilfley. Although it now contains only a farm-house and a cottage^g, it had formerly a market on Mondays, granted by King Edward I. in 1306, and a fair at the festival of St. Margaret^h. The manor was anciently the joint property of the Gascelynsⁱ and Turbeviles, who seem to have married co-heiresses. The Turbeviles were afterwards in possession of the whole, which passed by female heirs to the families of De Arches and Eyfston^k. It is now the property of Basil Eyfston esq. of East-Hendred, whose ancestors, in the male line, have possessed it for about four centuries and a half. The church was formerly a chapel to Farnborough. It is now a rectory, united to Peasemore, in the deanery of Newbury, and in the patronage of John Archer Houblon esq.

CHADDLEWORTH, in the hundred of Faircross, lies about nine miles north-west of Newbury. The manor was given, by William the Conqueror, to Robert D'Oilly. Having reverted to the crown, it became afterwards the property of Eleanor, the queen of Edward I.^l In 1283, it was given to the priory of Ambresbury, in Wiltshire^m. In 1544, it was purchased of William Sharington esq. groom of the privy chamber, to whom it had been granted on the dissolution of monasteries, by Henry Brouncker, whose heir, William Brouncker, sold it in 1576 to William Nelson esq. chief prothonotary of the Court of Common Pleas, whose family became extinct in the male line, by the death of Thomas Nelson esq. in 1748. The present proprietor, Richard Walter Nelson esq. is son of Richard Walter esq. who married Mr. Nelson's eldest daughter and co-heir; the other daughters died un-

^f Dugdale.
this parish.

the information of Mr. Eyfston.

^g Exclusively of the hamlet of Lilly, in which are thirteen houses belonging to
^h Cart. 34 Edw. I.

ⁱ Ibid. and Esch. Edw. III.

^l Esch. 12 Edw. I.

^m Pat. 12 Edw. I.

married.

married. Elizabeth, the last survivor, bequeathed all her interest in this manor, and other estates, to her nephew, Richard Walter, requesting that he would take the name of Nelson, in addition to his own. The singular custom by which a widow recovered her free-bench, forfeited by incontinency, well known to have been formerly in use in the manor of Enborne, prevailed also in this manorⁿ. The family of Tate had an estate in this parish, called the manor of Frankleyns^o, which is not now known; but it is probable, that it forms part of the estate of Mr. Nelson, who has some fields called by that name.

In the parish-church and church-yard are memorials of the families of Nelson, Tipping of Woolley-Park, and Blandy. The rectory was given to the monastery of Poghly, by the founder^p: it is now vested in the church of Westminster. The dean and chapter are patrons of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Newbury.

The monastery of Poghly above-mentioned was founded about the year 1160, upon the site of a hermitage, at a place called Ellensfordmere, in this parish, for Austin canons^q. It was suppressed by Cardinal Wolsey, among the smaller monasteries in 1532, when its revenues were found to be about 71*l. per annum*^r. The king granted the priory, and all its estates, to the abbot and convent of Westminster; and they were re-granted, after the general dissolution, to the dean and chapter of that church. The site of the monastery, of which no vestige remains^s, is now a farm house, situated in a very retired spot, among woods, about a mile and a half from Chaddleworth. The estate was held on lease, under the dean and chapter, by the late Mr. John Wasey, of Newbury.

Woolley-Park, in this parish, where was formerly a free chapel^t, is the seat of the Rev. Philip Wroughton. The manor, which had belonged to the abbey of the Minories in London, was granted in 1540, to Richard Tate^u. Not many years afterwards it was purchased of the Tates by John Read, and Margaret his wife, who, in 1566, conveyed it to Thomas Tipping, and Bartholomew his son. Woolley-Park continued to be a seat of the Tipping family, till the death of Bartholomew Tipping esq. in 1798. It is now the property of the Rev. Philip Wroughton, in right of his wife, Mary-Anne, niece and sole heiress of the late Mr. Tipping. The

ⁿ See Nelson's edition of Blount's Law Dictionary, the editor of which work was of this family.

^o See Esch. Ph. and Mar.

^p Dugdale's Monasticon.

^q Tanner.

^r Ibid.

^s There were some ruins of the priory remaining in 1759, as appears by the vicar's answers to Mr. Rowe Mores's queries in the Bibl. Top. Brit.

^t This chapel, by the name of Wulvely, was given to the priory of Poghly by the founder, as annexed to the church of Chaddleworth (Dugdale). There were no remains of it in 1759, but the site was known. Bibl. Top. Brit.

^u Records in the Augmentation Office.

house, built by Bartholomew Tipping esq. in 1690, was much altered in 1799, by the present proprietor, from designs of Mr. Jeffrey Wyatt.

Mr. William Saunders, who died in 1720, founded a school at Chaddleworth, for the education of eight poor children; two of Chaddleworth, two of Bright-Walton, two of Leckhamsted, one of Fawley, and one of Great-Shefford: the children are cloathed and apprenticed out of the funds of the charity. Mrs. Susan Winn, sister of Mr. Saunders, left 10*l. per annum*, for educating ten poor children of Chaddleworth.

CHEVELEY, in the hundred of Faircross, lies about five miles north of Newbury. The manor, which belonged to the abbot and convent of Abingdon, is the joint property of Sir Walter James James bart. and William Capel esq. of Prestbury, in Gloucestershire. The grandfather of Sir W. J. James, and the grandfather of the late Christopher Capel esq. (from whom Mr. Capel, of Prestbury, inherits this and other estates), married two co-heiresses of the name of Pocock, whose family had possessed the manor of Cheveley for a considerable time. The great tithes, which were formerly appropriated to the abbot and convent of Abingdon, and the advowson of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Newbury, are annexed to the manor.

There are three hamlets in this parish, which have chapels of ease, *Winterbourne*, *Leckhamsted*, and *Oare*. *Winterbourne* lies about three miles to the south-west of Cheveley. The manor of Winterbourne-Main was so called from Maen Fitz-Richard, who died seized of it in 1261^{*}. It was afterwards successively in the Greys of Rotherfield^y, and the Abberburys^z. Sir John Phelip died seized of it in the reign of Henry V.^a We have not been able to ascertain any thing of its subsequent history. In the chapel are memorials of the families of Pocock, Henshaw, and Weston. The manor of *Leckhamsted*, (which hamlet lies nearly four miles to the north-west of Cheveley,) was granted by King Edward II. to his favourite, Piers Gaveston^b. In 1337, it was sold by Sir Matthew Fitzherbert to Sir Nicholas de la Beche, who had a confirmation from the crown in 1338^c: no notice of this manor has been found in records of a later date. The manor of *Oare*, which had belonged to the abbot and convent of Abingdon, was surrendered to King Henry VIII. in 1547, by Edward Bashe^d. It was afterwards in the family of Calvert; and, having undergone several intermediate alienations, was purchased

^{*} Esch. 45 Hen. III.

^y Esch. Edw. II. and Edw. III.

^z Esch. Rich. II.

^a Esch. Hen. V.

^b Cart. Edw. II.

^c Clauf. 11 Edw. II. and Pat. 12 Edw. III.

^d Records in the Augmentation Office.

of the late Mr. Brummell by the present proprietor, William Mount esq. of Wasing.

The manor of Priors-Court, alias Currage, in this parish, belongs to the dean and chapter of Westminster. Prior's-Court-house was held for many years under that church, by the family of Barton, and is now the property of Mrs. Buckle, wife of Lewis Buckle esq. and daughter of the late Mrs. Batchelor, of Fulham, who was sister of Dr. Barton, the late warden of Merton College, in Oxford: it is at present uninhabited. *North-Heath* and *Snelfmore* are hamlets in this parish. At North-Heath is a school, founded in 1753, by Philip Henshaw esq. and endowed with 10*l.* *per annum*, for the education of 10 boys and 10 girls. Bradley farm, in this parish, was anciently held with the manor of Langley, in the adjoining parish of Hampsted-Norris, by the Veres, Earls of Oxford. It is now the joint property of Sir W. J. James bart. and Mr. Capel, by inheritance from the Pococks.

CHILDREY, in the hundred of Wanting, and deanery of Abingdon, lies three miles west of the town of Wantage.

Sir Edward Walker, in his *Historical Discourses*^c, informs us, that King Charles I. accompanied by his own troop, took up his quarters at this village, for one night, on the 10th of April, 1644.

There were three manors in Childrey, when the Norman Survey was taken, which seem to have continued separate to the present time. It has been erroneously stated, that Childrey was first divided into three manors, upon occasion of its being left between three co-heiresses of Sir John Childrey^f. The three manors are distinguished by the names of Frethorne, Maltravers, and Rampions, or more properly Rampanes: it was the manor of Frethorne only which belonged to the Childreys, or Chelreys, as their name is spelt in ancient records. John Frethorne died seised of the manor of Chelrey, in 1353, leaving a brother Walter^g, from whom it probably passed by purchase to Sir Edmund Chelrey, who died seised of it in 1372^h. The family of Chelrey were of consequence in the county before this time, and it is probable had their residence at this place; for it appears, that Henry de Chelrey was sheriff for the counties of Berks and Oxford, in 1336. Thomas Chelrey died seised of the manor of Frethorne, in Chelrey, in 1407, leaving a daughter Elizabeth, and two grand-daughters, (the children of his daughter Sibella,) co-heiresses. Elizabeth, his daughter, brought this manor in marriage to John Kingstonⁱ, whose descendant, Nicholas Kingston, died seised of it in 1515, leaving an only daughter, the wife of Thomas Lisle^k. The manor of Frethorne is now

^c Page 8.

^f See Ashmole's Collections and Magna Britannia.

^g Esch. Edw. III.

^h Ibid.

ⁱ Esch. Hen. IV.

^k Esch. Hen. VIII.

the property of Mr. Roycroft, having been purchased in or about the year 1769, of the family of Knight, to whom it belonged when Ashmole's Collections were published in 1720.

The manor of Maltravers was so called from the baronial family of that name, who were possessed of an estate in Childrey before the year 1300¹. This manor was for many years in the Ayshcombs of Lyford^m, and is now the property of Mr. Shippery. The manor of Rampions (more properly Rampanes) took its name from William de Rampane, who, at a very early period, held lands in this parishⁿ; which passed soon afterwards to the Fettiplaces, an ancient family, who possessed this manor for several centuries, and had a seat at Childrey. John Fettiplace, of Childrey, was created a baronet in 1661. On the death of Sir George Fettiplace, the last baronet, in 1743, the male line of this family became extinct; and the manor of Rampions, with other estates, passed to the son of Robert Bushel esq. of Castle-Prior, in Worcestershire, (by Diana, daughter of Sir John Fettiplace,) who took the name of Fettiplace, and was father of Charles Fettiplace esq. the present possessor. The manor-house has been long deserted by the family, and in part pulled down; what remains is occupied by a tenant.

In the church are several ancient monuments of the Fyndernes, Kingstons, and Walronds. The brass figures of William Fynderne and his lady (1444) are inlaid with lead. An altar tomb in the north transept, with the figure of a crusader under an ogee arch richly ornamented, is supposed to be that of Sir Edmund Chelrey. The windows are ornamented with stained glass. In the south transept, or St. Catherine's aisle, was a chantry founded by William Fettiplace, in honour of the Virgin Mary, the holy Trinity, and St. Catherine. In the windows are the arms of Fettiplace, Besils, &c. The font, which is of lead, is circular, and divided into compartments, on each of which is the figure of an abbot.

The president and scholars of Corpus-Christi College in Oxford are patrons of the rectory. Dr. Edward Pocock, the learned Orientalist, who died in 1691, was rector of this parish^o. Childrey has been inclosed under an act of parliament passed in 1772, when an allotment of land was assigned, in lieu of tithes, to the rector.

William Fettiplace, of Childrey, in the year 1526, gave a moiety of the manor of Letcombe-Basset, and other estates in Berkshire, to the provost and scholars of Queen's College, Oxford, on condition of their keeping in repair St. Catherine's aisle at Childrey, in which he had founded a chantry, and an alms-house which he

¹ See Esch. Edw. I. and Dugdale's Baronage. ^m See Esch. Eliz. and Ashmole's Berkshire.

ⁿ See the Cartulary of Beaulieu abbey in the Cotton. MSS. Nero A. XII.

^o Granger's Biographical History.

had built there for the habitation of three poor men of the parishes of Childrey and Letcombe-Basset. They were also to pay the chantry priest, who was to keep a free school for all the poor children of Childrey, 8*l. per annum*, and to allow 9*d.* a-week each to the poor men, 3*s.* 4*d.* yearly for a gown, and 2*s.* 8*d.* for fuel; the residue of the rents, after fulfilling these specific bequests, was to be expended by the provost and scholars in exhibitions, or otherwise, at their discretion. The chaplain of the chantry was not to be otherwise beneficed; and the founder directed, that if he should become a fornicator, or should keep hounds, or be a common hunter, or a stirrer-up of contention in the town of Childrey, or the parts adjacent, he should "be forthwith *amoved*." He was to be well skilled in grammar, to enable him to keep the free-school; he was to teach the children "the alphabet, the the Lord's Prayer, the Salutation of the Blessed Virgin, the Apostle's Creed, and all other things necessary to enable them to assist the priest in the celebration of the mass, together with the psalm *de profundis*, and the usual prayers for the dead; to teach them likewise English, the 14 articles of faith, the ten commandments, the seven deadly sins, the seven sacraments of the church, the seven gifts of the Holy Ghost, the seven works of mercy, as well corporal as spiritual, the five bodily senses, and the manner of confession. And if any should be apt and disposed to learn grammar, he was to instruct them therein after the best and most diligent manner that he could^p." The rector and scholars of Lincoln college were made visitors. The salary of 8*l. per ann.* is still continued to the schoolmaster, who has a residence under the same roof with the alms-house. The alms-men now receive nearly 3*l.* 3*s.* *per annum* each, being somewhat more than the pittance allowed by the founder.

CHILTON, near Hungerford, is partly in this county and partly in Wiltshire; as the church and village are in Wiltshire, it will be more particularly treated of under that county. The manor of Chilton and Leverton, extending into Berkshire, is now the property of John Pearse esq. of Chilton-lodge: it was purchased about the middle of the 17th century, by Sir Bulstrode Whitlocke, whose descendants sold it to Governor Holwell: after experiencing some intermediate alienations, it was purchased of Messrs. Ranson, Morland, and Co. by the present proprietor.

CHILTON, in the hundred of Compton and deanery of Abingdon, lies about three miles and a half north of Illey. The manor was many years in the family of Windfor^q, afterwards in the Yorkes; from whom, in the reign of Henry VIII. it passed by an heir female to the Hungerfords^r. It then acquired the name of

^p See the Founder's ordinances and his will, printed in the *Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica*.

^q See Esch. Ric. II. Hen. V. and Hen. VI. ^r Esch. Hen. VII. and Hen. VIII.

Chilton-Hungerford. In 1700 it was sold by Sir George Hungerford to Mr. Knapp, whose grand-daughter brought it into the family of Peers, of Chislehampton in Oxfordshire, of whom it has been lately purchased by the present proprietor, Sir Thomas Theophilus Metcalfe bart. John Walker Heneage esq. of Compton-house in Wiltshire, is patron of the rectory.

CHOLSEY, in the hundred of Reading, lies about three miles to the south-west of Wallingford. King Ethelred founded a monastery at this place in 986, to make atonement for the murder of his brother Edward the Martyr. It is supposed to have been destroyed by the Danes in 1006, when we are told that they burnt Reading, *Ceolfey*, and other places in Berkshire*. King Henry I. in his charter, by which he grants this manor to Reading abbey, speaks of the monastery at Cholsey as having been many years destroyed*. The abbot of Reading had a feat here, which was granted, in 1555, to Sir Francis Englefield. The manor, which was reserved by the crown, was afterwards granted to William Knolles, Viscount Wallingford (afterwards Earl of Banbury), from whose family it passed to that of Rich, Earls of Warwick, and is now the property of their representative, Lord Kensington.

On this estate is a very remarkable barn 51 feet in height, 54 in width, and 303 in length. A tablet on the wall, near one of the doors, records the following very extraordinary and almost incredible anecdote of manual labour: "In this barn John Lanesley threshed, for Mr. Joseph Hopkins, 5 quarters 7 bushels and a half of wheat in 13 hours, on March 15, 1747." Wonderful as this may appear, it is universally believed in the neighbourhood. The Hopkins family, who are still tenants of the estate, vouch for its truth; and Lanesley himself still lives to tell the story. He is now (Jan. 1805) in his 93d year, and has, till within these few months, worked ever since in the same farm, and received full wages as a labourer in husbandry; it is only during the present winter he has become dependant on parochial relief. It is understood that, in the performance of the above-mentioned feat, he had every assistance that could be rendered him, except an actual participation of the threshing; that two or three men were constantly employed in placing the ears of corn, thinly scattered, under his flail, and removing the straw as soon as threshed.

When the Survey of Domesday was taken, the church of Cholsey belonged to the abbey of Mount St. Michael, in Normandy; it was afterwards given to Reading abbey. Lord Kensington is the present impropiator of the great tythes. The Lord Chancellor is patron of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Wallingford.

Moulsford, in this parish, by the Thames' side, on the road from Wallingford to Reading, has a chapel of ease, in which are some monuments of the Giffard family.

* Sim. Dunelm.

* Dugdale's Monasticon.

William Giffard esq. who died in 1694, was the first president of Fort St. George, in Africa. The manor of Moulsoford was given by King Henry I. to Girardus Fitzwalter, ancestor of the Carews^u, who, in the reign of Henry III. were stiled Barons Carru and Mulesford: they continued in possession of this manor till 1472^x, and perhaps later. It was afterwards a feat of the Sambourns: Sir Henry Sambourn, of Moulsoford, was slieriff of the county in 1631. It is now, by a late purchase, the property of Robert Baker esq.

CLEWER, or CLEWORTH, in the hundred of Ripplemere, and deanery of Reading, is situated on the banks of the Thames. The village lies about a mile west of Windsor, but the parish extends into that town, and comprises a considerable part of it^v. The manor of Clewer was granted, in 1257, to Matthew Besil^z. It was afterwards in the Cifrewasts^a, an ancient family, which became extinct in the male line about the year 1450. Sir William Laken, one of the justices of the King's Bench, married one of the co-heiresses. Thomas, Lord Sandys, gave this manor to King Edward VI. in 1548^b. It is now the property of Arthur Vansittart esq. in whose family it has been nearly a century. The family of Brocas had a manor in this parish, which appears to have formed the endowment of our Lady's chantry, in the church of Clewer^c. It was sometimes called the manor of Clewer-Brocas. This family had also the manor of Didworth, or Dudworth Maunsell^d, a hamlet of Windsor, adjoining to this parish. These manors are now the property of the Hon. Mrs. Keppel, widow of the Bishop of Exeter, having been bequeathed to her by her father, Sir Edward Walpole, who purchased them of Topham Beauclerk esq.; previously to this they had been many years in the family of Topham.

In the church are memorials of the family of Hayes, of Holyport. Some very indifferent verses, on a brass plate, commemorate Martin Expençe, a famous archer, who shot a match against a hundred men, near Bray. The provost and fellows of Eton College are patrons of the rectory.

The feat of General Harcourt, at St. Leonard's Hill, in this parish, was built by the Dukes of Gloucester, when Countess of Waldegrave, on the site of a cottage: It was purchased by the present proprietor, about 1781. The adjoining feat of the late Mr. Birch, now belonging to his representatives, was for some time the property and residence of Lilly Aynscombe esq. who, about the year 1750, purchased and rebuilt the old mansion, which had been a feat of Frances, Dukes of Somerset.

^u Camden. ^x Esch. 11 Edw. IV. ^v Nearly 170 houses, according to the returns made to parliament under the Population Act, in 1801. ^z Pat. 41 Hen. III. ^a Esch. Edw. III.—Hen. VI. ^b Records in the Augmentation Office. ^c Esch. Rich. II.—Rich. III. ^d Esch. Hen. IV.—Rich. III.

COLESHILL, in the hundred of Shrivenham, and deanery of Abingdon, lies about four miles from Faringdon, and two miles from Highworth, in Wiltshire, being on the borders of that county. The manor was given to the priory of Bonnes-hommes, at Edindon, in Wiltshire, by their founder, William de Edindon, bishop of Winchester. After the reformation, it was given to Thomas Lord Seymour, the Lord-Admiral; and, after his attainder, was successively, either by lease or grant, the property of Anne, Duchess of Somerset, and Arthur Lord Grey, of Wilton. In 1601, it belonged to Sir Thomas Freake, and, in 1626, was purchased by Sir Henry Pratt, alderman of London, who was created a baronet in 1641: his only daughter becoming heir to her brother, Sir George Pratt, the second and last baronet of the family, brought Colehill, by marriage, to the family of Pleydell, who, many years before, had an estate, called in some records a manor, in Colehill, which they appear to have inherited from a family, who took their name from the village, and possessed this estate so early as the reign of Edward I.^e A younger branch of the family of Pleydell (the elder branch being seated at Shrivenham) continued to reside here^f, till the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when Anthony Pleydell, of Colehill, died without issue. The manor of Colehill now belongs to the Earl of Radnor, whose father married the only daughter and heir of Sir Mark Stuart Pleydell bart. grandson of Thomas Pleydell esq. of Shrivenham, who married Sir George Pratt's sister. Colehill-house, now occupied by Lord Folkestone, eldest son of the Earl of Radnor, was built by Inigo Jones, about the middle of the 17th century, and still retains its original form^g.

In the chancel of the parish church, on the north side, is a handsome monument for Sir Henry Pratt bart. who died in 1647, and, on the opposite side, one of a more modern date, of artificial stone, executed in the Gothic style, in memory of Sir Mark Stuart Pleydell bart. and his lady. The south transept is all that remains of a chapel, built about the year 1499, by Thomas Pleydell esq. of Colehill, who died in 1527. It is now fitted up as a pew for Lord Radnor's family. In the south wall are preserved two ogee arches, under one of which lies the effigies of Agnes Pleydell, wife of the founder: on the east wall is a brass tablet, containing a genealogical account of the Pleydell family, and an extract from the will of Thomas Pleydell. On the west side is an elegant marble cenotaph, by Rysbrack, in memory of the Hon. Harriot Bouverie, only child of Sir M. S. Pleydell, and wife of the Hon. William Bouverie, afterwards Earl of Radnor. In the east window of the chancel is the Nativity, in stained glass, bought at Angers, in 1787, by the Earl of

^e See a genealogical tablet of the Pleydells, in Colehill church.
in Bibl. Top. Brit. Berks.

^f Pedigree of the Pleydells
^g A receipt for one of the chimney-pieces, now in the possession of the Earl of Radnor, is dated April 21, 1660.

Radnor, and put up at his expence. The great tithes were given with the manor, by William de Edindon, Bishop of Winchester, to the monastery founded by him at Edindon, in Wiltshire. The impropriation is now vested in the Earl of Radnor, who is patron of the vicarage. The church of St. Mary at Winchester had an estate in Colehill, at the time of the Norman Survey, which was given by Walter Lacy with his daughter, when she became a nun in that convent.

COMPTON, in the hundred of that name, and deanery of Newbury, lies about two miles to the south-west of Ilfley. The manor of West-Compton, in this parish, is the paramount manor of the hundred. It belonged formerly to the abbey of Wherwell, in Hampshire. After the dissolution, it was given to the bishops of Bath and Wells, who had an estate in this parish as early as the year 1316^h. This manor, with the hundred of Compton, has been held on lease for a considerable time, by the family of Potenger.

The manor of East-Compton, in this parish, was successively in the families of Musgrosⁱ, De la Beche, and Langford. It is now the property of Sir Walter James James bart. to whose ancestors, the Heads, it was granted by the crown, in or about the reign of Queen Elizabeth. An estate in this parish, called the manor of Stokes, which belonged to the Norris family^k, is not now known. Sir W. J. James is patron of the vicarage, and impropriator of the great tithes, which belonged to Reading abbey.

COMPTON-BEAUCHAMP, or COMPTON-REGIS, in the hundred of Shrivenham, and deanery of Abingdon, lies about eight miles west of Wantage, and about six miles nearly to the south of Faringdon. The manor, which is called, in some ancient records, Compton *juxta* Shrivenham, and Compton *juxta* White-horse, was anciently in the baronial family of Somery^l: it was held under them by William de Beauchamp^m, whose descendants, the Earls of Warwick, were, for a considerable time, lords of the manorⁿ. In 1524, it belonged to the Fettiplaces^o, and at a later period to the Pyles. Sir Gabriel Pyle died seised of it in 1623^p. His son Francis, who was of Compton-Beauchamp, was created a baronet in 1628. From the Pyles this estate passed, by marriage, about the year 1670, to the family of Richards, of Yaverland, in the Isle of Wight. Mr. Richards, the last heir male of this family, bequeathed it, in case of his daughter's dying without issue, to

^h Nomina Villarum, No. 6281. Harl. MSS.

ⁱ Confirmed to Musgros by Cart. 4 Edw. I.

^k Esch. 6 Eliz.

^l Esch. Edw. I. and Edw. II.

^m Esch. 1 Edw. I.

ⁿ Esch. Edw. III.—Hen. IV.

^o Esch. Hen. VIII.

^p Esch. Jac. I.

Mr. Wright, then town-clerk of Oxford, and maternal grandfather of the present proprietor, John Atkyns Wright esq. one of the representatives in parliament for that city.

The hamlet of *Knighton*, in this parish, is attached to the hundred of Ewelme, in Oxfordshire. The manor, which was given by the Baron St. Walery to the canons of St. Frideswide, in Oxford¹, belonged, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, to the family of George²; in 1623, to the Pyles³; and seems to have passed since that time, with Compton-Bauchamp, being now the property of Mr. Atkyns Wright.

In the parish church are some memorials of the family of Richards. Mr. Atkyns Wright is patron of the rectory. The parish has been inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1794: the lands were not exonerated from tithes.

COOKHAM, in the hundred of Barnerish, and deanery of Reading, lies about three miles north of Maidenhead, part of which town is within the parish. Cookham itself was formerly a market town. The Survey of Domesday values the tolls, of what was then called the New Market at Cookham, at 20s. *per annum*. It has now two annual fairs, May 16th and October 11th. The principal manor has been in the crown from time immemorial. Of late years it has been out on lease. In 1784, a lease, as yet unexpired, was purchased by James Lord Brudenell, now Earl of Cardigan, as trustee for his Majesty. The tenants of this manor, as being of the ancient demesne of the crown, are toll-free in all markets, and exempt from serving on juries. The suit-holders, or those who have suit-hold estates within the manor, pay a heriot of the best horse and saddle; or, should the deceased not have possessed a horse, the best of his household goods, and half a year's quit rent.

The manor of Great Bradley, in this parish, belonged formerly to the St. Quintins, from whom it passed, by a female heir, to the Lords Fitzhugh⁴. Being vested in the crown, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth it was granted to Thomas Farmer esq.⁵ In 1705 it was purchased of the Turbevilles, in whose family it had then been for many years, by Edward Colston esq. well known for his numerous and munificent benefactions to the city of Bristol. It is now the property of his descendant in the female line, Edward Francis Colston esq. whose grand-father changed his name, on succeeding to this and other considerable estates.

The manor of Pinkneys belonged to an ancient family, from whom it derived its name⁶, afterwards to the Bulstrodes⁷ and Wallers⁸. It has of late years been

¹ Dugdale's Monasticon. ² Esch. ³ Esch. Jac. I. ⁴ Esch. Edw. III.—Edw. IV.

⁵ From the information of James Payn esq. steward of the king's manor. ⁶ Esch. Hen. VI.

⁷ Esch. Edw. IV. ⁸ Temp. Jac. I.

successively in the families of Hall, Draper, and Radcliffe, and is now the property of Mr. John Hufsey.

The manor of Bullocks, alias Whites Place, the property and seat of George Hanmer Leycester esq. was purchased by his grand-father, George Leycester esq. in 1763. It had been, by purchase, the property of Ralph Moore, who died seised of it in 1577^a; and was afterwards in the family of Smith^b. Part of the manor of Hyndens, formerly mentioned^c, extends into this parish. The Norris family, who were its ancient owners, had another estate in this parish, called the manor of Elynton and Spencers. The prior and convent of Bisham had a manor in Cookham, given them by their founder, the Earl of Salisbury. The Brocas family had a manor here in the fifteenth century. An estate at Babham-end, in this parish, so called from the ancient family of Babham, was, from 1696 to 1718, the property and residence of Henry Washington esq. who, by the tradition of the place, is erroneously supposed to have been ancestor to the celebrated general of that name. Samuel Young esq. son of Admiral Sir George Young, is the present proprietor of this estate, in right of his mother, who was daughter of Dr. Battie. Sir George Young has himself a villa, near the farm, and holds, in right of his wife, the nominal manor of Elynton above mentioned. It is described in the record of Domesday, as a manor, by the name of Elentone. This estate, which lies about a mile and a half to the north of Maidenhead, is now described as the reputed manor of Knight-Ellington, otherwise Ealington's, consisting of a farm, called Spencer's. The ancient name of Maidenhead is said to have been South-Elington, or Ealington.

In the parish church of Cookham are memorials of the families of Farmer of Bradley, Babham, and Weldon. A brass plate, near the entrance into the chancel, commemorates Sir Edward Stockton, a vicar of this parish, who is styled "Pylgrym of Jerusalem, and canon professed of the house of our Lady at Gisborough, in Yorkshire." The great tithes of Cookham were appropriated to the abbey of Cirencester. They are now the property of William Plumer esq. M.P. who is patron of the vicarage, and has a considerable estate in this parish, called Harwood, which has been in his family since the reign of Charles II. It was before that time the property of Sir John Herbert, who purchased it of the Weldons. North-town, Cookham-Dean, and Pigmy's-Green, are in this parish.

Partly in this parish, and partly in that of Bray, stands the town of *Maidenhead*, a well-known thoroughfare on the road to Bath and Oxford. Its ancient name is said to have been South-Ealington. The manor of Elentone is described, as above-

^a Epitaph in Ashmole's Berks.

^b Temp. Jac. I.--From the information of Mr. Payn.

^c See the account of the parish of Bray.

mentioned, in the Norman Survey. Leland tells us (from tradition it is presumed), that it acquired its present name of Maidenhead from the great veneration paid there to the head of a British Virgin. As the town is called Maydenehithe, or Maiden-hithe, in the most ancient records which are to be found relating to it^d, perhaps it may be thought more probable, that it was originally the name of the spot where the bridge now is, and where there was in ancient times a great wharf for timber^e. Before the building of the bridge, the great road, which now passes through Maidenhead, went through Burnham, and crossed the Thames near Cookham, at Babham ferry, opposite to which is still to be seen a hollow way, now almost overgrown, leading up Cliefden hill. Camden dates the building of the bridge about the year 1400; but it is evident, from records, that it was built some time before the year 1297^f. It is not improbable that a new town arose soon after this, on the site of a hamlet, which had been called South-Elyngton, to distinguish it from the site of a manor of the same name, which lies a mile and a half more to the north; and that it acquired the name of Maidenhithe from the bridge, which had been so called. A chapel was soon afterwards built there, dedicated to St. Andrew and St. Mary Magdalen. John Husbands gave a sum of money for the endowment of a chantry; and some of the principal inhabitants were incorporated in 1352, as the fraternity, or gild, of the brethren and sisters of Maydeneth, or Maidenhithe^g. A charter of King Henry VI. bearing date 1452, places the fraternity under the direction of the chantry priest, who was to be called the supervisor, or overseer. It appears that one of the principal objects of the gild was to keep Maidenhithe bridge in repair; for which purpose a toll was granted at the bridge, and a toll for all commodities sold in the market^h. After the reformation the town was incorporated anew, by the name of the warden and burgessees of Maidenhead. King James II. granted them another charter of incorporation, with the style of mayor, bridge-masters, and burgessees. Two of the burgessees, who are eleven in number, are annually elected bridge-masters. The high steward, the steward or recorder, the mayor, and the mayor of the preceding year, are justices of the peace. The mayor is clerk of the market, coroner, and judge of a court, which is held once in three weeks. The corporation have the power of making bye-laws. There is a gaol for debtors and felons. The market, granted by the charter of 1452, is still held on Wednesdays, being a considerable mart for corn. There are three annual fairs: Wednesday in Whitsun Week, Sept. 29, and Nov. 30. The revenues of the

^d Clauf. 14 Edw. I. Pat. 26 Edw. I. &c.
for its repair. See Pat. 26 Edw. I.

^e Leland.

^f The bridge, which was

^g This charter is recited in the charter of Hen. VI.

^h Pat. 30 Hen. VI.

corporation consist chiefly of the tolls of the market and bridge. The chapel is within the parish of Cookham. The small endowment given by Mr. Husbands, being only 4*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* *per annum*, has been paid out of the exchequer since the dissolution of chantries. The editor of the *Magna Britannia*, published in 1720, says, that the minister was then chosen by the inhabitants in Common-hall. He is now appointed by the mayor and bridge-masters. Formerly the appointment was vested in the vicar of Cookham, with consent of the vicar of Bray. The chapel is said to be exempt from episcopal jurisdiction.

Maidenhead bridge was originally of timber. In 1688 it was fortified to impede the approach of the Prince of Orange towards the metropolis, and its defence entrusted to the Irish; but some of the townsmen of Maidenhead beating a Dutch march in the night, they took alarm, and abandoned their post, leaving their cannon behind them. The foundation of the present bridge, of which Sir Robert Taylor was the architect, was laid in 1772. One of the piers divides the counties of Berks and Buckingham. Between Maidenhead bridge and the town, on the Cookham side, is a villa, belonging to Sir Isaac Pocock: nearer to the town is an alms-house, founded in 1659, by James Smith esq. falter and citizen of London, for eight poor men and their wives, endowed by him with 40*l.* *per annum*, to which Mrs. Smith added 8*l.* to buy fuel.

The number of inhabitants in Maidenhead, as returned to parliament in 1801, was 949; but either some mistake was made in the enumeration, or the population has been much increased within the short time since elapsed, for we are credibly informed that the present number of inhabitants is at least 1;100.

GREAT COXWELL, in the hundred of Faringdon, and deanery of Abingdon, lies about two miles south-west of Faringdon. The manor, which had been part of the royal demesne, was given by King John, to Beaulieu abbey, in 1204¹. After the reformation, it was granted to the family of Morys or Mores, who had been lessees under the abbey². In this family it continued till the year 1638, when it was purchased by Sir Henry Pratt bart. from whom it descended to the present proprietor, the Earl of Radnor³. The manor-house, great barn, and some lands annexed, did not pass with the manor, but were purchased in 1700, under Lady Pratt's will, by her grandson, George Pratt Richmond, alias Webb esq.^m from

¹ Dugdale's *Monasticon*, Vol. II. ² See *Bib. Top. Brit.* ³ See the account of Colehill, p. 264.

^m Lady Pratt, by her will, bearing date July 14, 1697, directed the whole of her estate at Coxwell, to be sold, to pay her debts, or at least such part as should be sufficient for that purpose. The manor-house and barn above-mentioned, and 150 acres of land, being sold pursuant to this direction, were purchased by her grand-son, Dec. 16, 1700. See the *History of Great Coxwell*, in the *Bibl. Top. Brit.*

whom

whom it descended to John Richmond Webb esq. lately deceased. The great barn above-mentioned, is much inferior in size to that of Cholfey, being only 148 feet by 40, but it is a remarkably fine piece of masonry, and may probably last as many centuries as have elapsed since it was built by the abbots of Beaulieu. The walls are four feet thick, and the roof is supported by two rows of large upright timbers, resting upon massy stone piers.

It is said in the *Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica*, that there was a cell of Cistercians at Coxwell, but no authority is quoted; and it seems by records in the Cartulary of Beaulieu abbey, of which a list is given in the same work, that they had only a grange there^a.

In the church are some tombs of the family of Mores, ancestors of Edward Rowe Mores, the antiquary, who projected a History of Berkshire, but had made little progress in the undertaking, as appears by his papers, published in the *Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica*. He had caused engravings to be made of the church at Coxwell, the manor-house, great barn, &c. which were published in No. XIII. of the above-mentioned work. In the chancel-window are the arms of the several possessors of the manor, put up by the Earl of Radnor, who is impropiator of the great tithes, which belonged to Beaulieu abbey. The bishop of Salisbury is patron of the vicarage.

CUMNER, in the hundred of Hormer, and deanery of Abingdon, lies about three miles nearly west of Oxford. The manor belonged, from a very early period, to the abbot and convent of Abingdon. Cumner-house, which had been always reserved in the hands of the abbots, as a place of retirement in case of sickness or plague, at Abingdon, was granted by King Henry VIII. to Thomas Penthecost, alias Rowland, the last abbot for life^b. After his death it was the seat of Anthony Forster esq. who lies buried in Cumner church. His epitaph represents him as a very amiable man, very learned, a great musician, builder, and planter; but his character stands by no means clear of the imputation of having been accessory to the murder of the Countess of Leicester, at his own house at Cumner, whither she was sent for that purpose by her husband; Sir Richard Verney, one of the Earl's retainers, was the chief agent in this horrid business^c. A chamber is shewn in the ruined mansion, which adjoins the church-yard at Cumner, called the Dudley-Chamber, where the countess is said to have been murdered, and afterwards thrown down stairs, to make it appear that her death was accidental^d. She was buried at Cumner, but her body was afterwards removed to St. Mary's Church, in Oxford. The

^a See *Bibl. Top. Brit.* No. XIII. p. 2. and p. 12. ^b Leland's *Collectanea*, vol. VI. p. 195—199.

^c See *Ashmole's Berkshire*. ^d Dugdale mentions the Countess of Leicester's death, as happening at Mr. Forster's house at Cumner, by a fall down stairs "*as 'twas said*." *Baronage*, vol. II. manor

manor of Cumner was granted, in 1546, to George Owen esq. and John Bridges M. D. and passed afterwards to Anthony Forster above-mentioned. It now belongs to the Earl of Abingdon, in whose family it has been for many years. Part of the old mansion, which was formerly the abbot's place, is fitted up as a farm-house. The shell of the remainder, though in a state of dilapidation, is nearly entire; some part of it appears to have been rebuilt after the reformation, by Mr. Forster. Over a chimney-piece, in one of the rooms, are the arms of the abbey of Abingdon, a lion rampant, and some other coats. This mansion, which was the rectorial-house, is held on lease, under the Earl of Abingdon, together with the great tithes.

There are seven tithings in this parish, Cumner, Whitley, Stroud, Hill-end, Swinford, Botley, and Chawley. At Chilswell-farm, in some records called a manor, was formerly a chapel^r: this farm belongs to the Earl of Abingdon. A farm in this parish, called Bradley, belongs to Merton College.

In the parish church are two ancient tombs in the south transept, supposed to be those of two abbots of Abingdon; the monument of Anthony Forster, before mentioned, and a modern tablet, in memory of Dr. Benjamin Buckler, the late vicar, editor of the *Stemmata Chicheleiana*, and keeper of the archives in the university of Oxford. In the church-yard is the tomb of Richard Brown, a shepherd, aged 109. Francis Drope, author of a book on the management of fruit-trees, formerly in much esteem, and his brother John, a physician and poet, were both natives of this parish, of which their father was vicar^s.

The great tithes of Cumner, which were appropriated to the abbot and convent of Abingdon, and the patronage of the vicarage, have passed with the manor. The parishioners, who pay vicarial tithes, claim a custom of being entertained at the vicarage, on the afternoon of Christmas-day, with four bushels of malt brewed into ale and beer, two bushels of wheat made into bread, and half a hundred weight of cheese. The remainder is given to the poor, the next morning after divine service^t.

DENCHWORTH, in the hundred of Wanting, and deanery of Abingdon, lies about three miles north of Wantage, and nearly nine miles to the south-west of Abingdon. The manor of South-Denchworth belonged to David Martun, Bishop of St. David's, who died in 1328^u. It was afterwards in the Corbets; Sir Roger Corbet died seized of it in 1417. His daughter and sole heir, Sybella, married John Grevell^x. The manor afterwards became the property of the Hydes, who,

^r See Dr. Buckler's answer to Rowe Mores's *Queries* in Bib. Top. Brit. No. XIII. Wood.

^t Dr. Buckler's answer to Rowe Mores's *Queries*.

^s Ant.

^u Esch. 2 Edw. III.

^x Esch. 5 Hen. V.

by some fabulous tradition in the family, were said to have possessed it from the time of King Canute. A pedigree of the Hydes, in the British Museum^y, states Sir George Hyde K. B. who died in 1625, and sold the manor of South-Denchworth to Sir William Cockayne, to have been the sixth in descent from the first of that family who settled at Denchworth, which will not be found inconsistent with the records which prove the manor to have been in the Corbets so late as the commencement of the fifteenth century. Lord Viscount Cullen, son of Sir William Cockayne, sold South-Denchworth to the Geerings, of whom it was purchased, in 1758, by the provost and scholars of Worcester college in Oxford.

The manor of Upper and Lower-Circourt, in this parish, which was formerly also in the Cockaynes, is now the property of Sir Charles Saxton bart. whose father purchased it of the family of Matthews. In the parish church are several monuments of the Hydes and Geerings. One of the former has an epitaph, consisting of some very lame verses, all of which end with the name of Hyde. Over the porch is a small library for the use of the vicars, given, in 1693, by Gregory Geering esq. then lord of the manor. The great tithes, which were appropriated to the monastery of Bruerne in Oxfordshire, were purchased of the Geerings, together with the manor, by the provost and scholars of Worcester college in Oxford, who are patrons of the vicarage. The parish has been inclosed by an act of parliament passed in 1801, when allotments of land were assigned in lieu of the rectorial and vicarial tithes.

DIDCOT, or DUDCOT, in the hundred of Moreton, lies about six miles west of Wallingford (near the road to Wantage), and about the same distance from Abingdon. The manor belonged anciently to the Blunts^z and Stonors^a. It is now the property of William Baker esq. who purchased it a few years ago of the Blakes. In the parish church is a tomb of Sir Richard Blake, who died in 1709. The principal and scholars of Brazen-nose college in Oxford are patrons of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Abingdon. It belonged formerly to the priory of Marlow, in Buckinghamshire^b.

DRAYTON, in the hundred of Hormer, lies two miles to the south-west of Abingdon. The manor which belonged to the abbot and convent of Abingdon was granted, together with the impropriate rectory and advowson, by King Henry VIII. to Sir Anthony St. Leger K. G. by whose family it was sold, in 1561, to John Southcote esq. Serjeant at Law. Philip Southcote esq. the last heir male of this

^y Harl. MS. 1535. ^z Cart. 33 Edw. I. ^a Esch. Edw. III. & Ric. II. ^b Pat. 3 Ric. II. Pt. 3.
family,

family, died in 1758; the manor, rectory, and advowson of Draycot, are now, pursuant to the limitations of his will, the property of his relation, Sir William Jerningham bart. Drayton was formerly a chapel appendant to St. Helen's, Abingdon, the present vicar of which church was instituted to his vicarage, with the chapel of Drayton annexed: but the vicars have not officiated there for many years, nor exercised the right of appointing a curate. Drayton is a separate parish; the benefice is of very small value.

EATON-HASTINGS, in the hundred of Ock, and deanery of Abingdon, is a very small village, lying about four miles north-west of Faringdon, in a retired situation, to the north of the road to Lechlade. In 1298, Benedict Blakenham conveyed the manor, of which William de Hastings had died seised in 1270^d, to Hugh St. Philibert^e. After the death of John Baron St. Philibert, in 1352^f, it came to the crown, and was granted by Edward III. in 1358, to Sir William Trussell^g, in whose family it continued above a century^h. It was afterwards successively in the Wenmansⁱ and Martens^k. Of late years it has been in the Barrington family, and is now vested in the bishop of Durham, and other trustees, under the will of William Lord Barrington, who died in 1793.

The only monumental inscription in the parish church worthy of remark, is that of the Rev. Henry Beeke, rector, who died in 1670; his epitaph informs us that, out of the small produce of this living, he increased his patrimony, bought farms, and left a handsome fortune to his nephews and nieces.

The Rev. Richard Rice, the present incumbent, is patron of the rectory. The parish contains about 1500 acres of land.

ENBORNE, in the hundred of Kentbury-Eagle, lies about two miles and a half nearly west of Newbury. The manor of East Enborne was successively in the families of Rogers^l and Effex. Sir William Effex gave it to King Henry VIII. in 1543. The manor of West Enborne, or Enborne-Cheney, was successively in the families of Cranley^m, Wodelockⁿ, St. Amand^o, and Cheyne. John Cheyne gave it to King Henry VIII. in 1542. Sir Thomas Gawdy possessed both these manors in 1588^p. Sir Thomas Parry, of Hampsted-Marshall, was possessed of both in 1590; they were afterwards in the Babingtons^q, and, in or about the year 1622, became

^d Esch. 6 Edw. I. ^e Claus. 26 Edw. I. ^f Esch. 26 Edw. III. ^g Pat. 32 Edw. III.

^h Esch. 3 Edw. IV. ⁱ Esch. Ph. & Mar. & Eliz. ^k It is probable that it was purchased of Harry Marten, the regicide, by Mr. Wildman, and passed with the Shrivenham estate to the Barringtons. See the account of that parish. ^l Esch. Hen. VIII. ^m Inq. ad q. d. 1 Edw. II.

ⁿ Esch. Edw. III. ^o Esch. Hen. IV. ^p Esch. Eliz. ^q Esch. Jac. I.

the property of Sir William Craven, from whom they have descended to the present proprietor, the Earl of Craven.

There is a remarkable and well-known ancient custom in these manors, that if the widow of a copyholder should marry again, or be guilty of incontinency, she forfeits her free-bench, or life interest, in her late husband's copyhold, which is not recoverable but by her submitting to ride into court upon a black ram repeating some ludicrous lines[†], which end with a petition for her husband's land, on which the steward of the manor is obliged to reinstate her in the copyhold. At every court, the jury still present this as one of the ancient customs of the manor: the penalty has not been literally enforced within the memory of man, but it is said that a pecuniary commutation has been received in lieu of it, which perhaps may have been more readily accepted, from the difficulty of procuring a proper animal for the purpose. The same singular custom prevailed in the manor of Chaddleworth. Lord Craven is patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Newbury.

ENGLEFIELD, in the hundred of Theale, and deanery of Newbury, lies about six miles and a half nearly west of Reading, a little to the north of the Bath road.

This place was the site of a well-known battle between the Danes and the Saxons in 871.

The manor of Englefield was held under the baronial family of Somery in 1272[‡], and, probably at a much earlier period, by a very ancient family, who took their name from the village. The pedigrees of the family represent them as having been settled at Englefield for six descents before John Englefield, who was of this place in the reign of Henry III. Roger de Englefield was knight of the shire in 1307. His descendants frequently filled the same situation, and served the office of sheriff. Sir Thomas Englefield, who died in 1513, was speaker of the House of Commons and Justice of Chester; his son, Sir Thomas, was one of the justices of the Common Pleas. Sir Francis, his grandson, having been convicted of adhering to Mary Queen of Scots, fled the kingdom, and was attainted of high treason[§]. This manor, having been thereby forfeited to the crown, was granted by Queen Elizabeth to her secretary, Sir Francis Walsingham^{||}. Francis Englefield, nephew of Sir Francis above-mentioned, was created a baronet in 1612, being described of Wotton Bassett, in Wiltshire. His posterity occasionally resided at a house in this village, which had been, for so many generations, the abode of their ancestors. It was sold in 1792 by Sir Henry Charles Englefield the present baronet.

[†] See Jacob's Law Dictionary, and the ninth volume of the Spectator.

[‡] Esch. Edw. I.

[§] Baronetage. ^{||} From the information of Mr. Benyon.

From Sir Francis Walsingham, the manor of Englefield passed with his daughter and heir to the Earl of Clanrickard, and afterwards to John, Marquis of Winchester, who married Lady Honora Burgh, the Earl's daughter. Englefield became the chief seat of the Marquis of Winchester, after the demolition of Basing-house. Sir Balthazar Gerbier having published, in 1663, a treatise called "Counsel and Advice to all Builders," takes occasion, in his dedication to the Marquis of Winchester, to commend Englefield (or, as he calls it, Henfelde) house. He describes it as "a well seated palace, with a wood at its back like a mantle about a coat of arms;" and says, that "its present satisfaction must diminish its owner's grief for the loss of Basing." Anne, daughter and sole heir of Lord Francis Pawlet, only surviving son of the Marquis by his second wife, brought this estate to the Rev. Nathan Wright, a younger son of the Lord Keeper. On the death of his son Nathan, in 1789, Englefield devolved to the late Richard Benyon esq. son of Governor Benyon by the widow of Pawlet Wright, elder brother of the last mentioned Nathan. It is now the property and seat of Richard Benyon esq. grandson of the governor. The house is a conspicuous object from the Bath road.

Sir Edward Norris, a military character of some celebrity, who particularly distinguished himself at the taking of the Groyne, had a seat at Englefield in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, who dined with him there during her stay at Reading in 1601*. Sir Edward Norris lies buried at Englefield†. Elias Ashmole the Herald and Antiquary, whose collections for this county have been published since his decease, retired to this village in 1647, where we are told he pursued his studies very closely, and amused his vacant hours with botany‡.

In the parish church are several monuments of the Englefield family, by whom the North aisle of the chancel was built for a burial place in 1514. The inscriptions in memory of Sir Thomas Englefield, the Speaker; Sir Thomas Englefield, the Justice of the Common Pleas; and some others, recorded by Ashmole, have been removed; the Speaker's *monument* remains on the north side of the chancel. Sir Francis Englefield, the first baronet, was buried in 1631; Sir Henry, the late baronet, in 1780. In the south aisle, under two obtuse arches, are the figures of a crusader in mail and surcoat, and a lady. In this aisle is the monument of John, Marquis of Winchester, who defended Basing-house against the Parliamentary army: he died in 1674. On this monument are the following lines:

" He who in impious times untainted stood,
And midst rebellion durst be great and good,

* Queen Elizabeth's Progresses. † Ashmole. ‡ Biograph. Brit.

Whose arms asserted, and whose sufferings more,
 Confirm'd the cause for which he fought before;
 Rests here rewarded by an heavenly prince,
 For what his earthly could not recompense;
 Pray reader, that such times no more appear,
 Or if they happen, learn true honour here.
 Ask of thy ages faith and loyalty,
 Which, to preserve them, Heaven confin'd in thee:
 Few subjects could a king like thine deserve,
 And fewer such a king so well could serve;
 Blest king, blest subject, whose exalted state,
 By sufferings rose, and gave the law to fate;
 Such souls are rare, but mighty patterns given
 To earth, were meant for ornaments to heaven.

By JOHN DRYDEN, Poet Laureat."

The remainder of the epitaph, which is in prose (written by Sir Edward Walker, garter king at arms), speaks of the marquis as a man of exemplary piety towards God, and of inviolable fidelity towards his sovereign, in whose cause he fortified his house at Basing, and defended it against the rebels to the last extremity. The remainder is a diffuse account of his marriages and issue. In the same aisle are memorials of his second lady Honora Marchioness of Winchester, their eldest son, and their daughter Lady Honora. There are some monuments also of the family of Wright. Mr. Benyon is patron of the rectory.

FARINGDON, a market town by prescription, 71 miles from London, on the road to Cirencester, now gives name to a hundred, but was anciently situated within the hundred of Wifol. The first charter on record, relating to this town, is that of 1218^a, which grants a market on Mondays to the abbot of Beaulieu; but it appears by the charter of 1313^b, which changed the market-day to Wednesday, that the burgesses had held a market on Monday long before the grant to the abbot. The market is now held on Tuesday. There are three annual fairs; Old Candlemas-day, Whitfun Tuesday, and October 29th, besides a statute fair on the 18th of October for hiring servants. A fair is held at Wadley in this parish on the 6th of April. The town is governed by a bailiff and inferior officers. According to the returns made to parliament, under the population act, in 1801, Faringdon and its hamlets contained 1916 inhabitants.

Faringdon was part of the ancient demesne of the crown. The Saxon kings had a palace there, in which Edward the Elder, a brave and successful monarch, paid the debt of nature, in 925^c. In the year 1144, Robert, Earl of Gloucester, built a

^a Cl. 2 Hen. III.

^b Cart. 6 Ed. II.

^c Sax. Chron.

castle at Faringdon, which he fortified and defended against King Stephen; but after a close siege of four days, it was taken and razed to the ground^d. In 1203, King John gave the manor of Faringdon to some Cistercian monks, who had settled in this town, on condition of their building a monastery there; but the next year, having himself founded a convent of that order at Beaulieu in Hampshire, the donation was transferred to them. A few monks remained at Faringdon in a small house which became a cell to Beaulieu abbey. It appears by an ancient account-book of that monastery, in the Bodleian library, that King Henry III. his Queen, Prince Edward, and Roger de Mortimer his favourite general, on some occasion, spent a night at Faringdon, being entertained at the cost of the abbot and convent; the expence of the king's entertainment amounted to 100s. 6d. the queen's to 75s. Prince Edward's to 50s. 6d. and the general's to only 4s. The date does not appear.

At Radcot bridge, situated at the extremity of this parish, was fought the battle between Robert Vere, Duke of Ireland, Richard the Second's favourite, and the Earl of Derby (afterwards King Henry IV.) and other confederate lords. The duke was defeated and escaped by flight, crossing the river at the hazard of his life^e. King Charles was at Faringdon soon after the second battle of Newbury^f. Faringdon-house was made a royal garrison, of which Sir Marmaduke Rawdon was appointed governor. Cromwell made an unsuccessful attempt upon this garrison, in the month of June 1645, with 600 men, from the garrison of Abingdon^g; a second attack equally unsuccessful was made the next year, under the command of Sir Robert Pye, the owner of the house^h. Sir George Lisle was then governor. In this attack, the spire of Faringdon church is said to have been beaten down. Faringdon was one of the last places which held out for the king; it was not surrendered till the month of June 1646, when the governor gave it up to the parliament, pursuant to the articles for the surrender of Oxford, in which Faringdon was includedⁱ.

The manor of Faringdon, which became again vested in the crown by the dissolution of Beaulieu abbey, was granted by Queen Mary to Sir Francis Englefield, after whose attainder, Queen Elizabeth gave it to Sir Henry Unton. It was purchased of Sir John Wentworth and other representatives of the Unton family, in the year 1622, by Sir Robert Pye, in whose family it continued till the year 1788, when it was sold by Henry James Pye esq. the present poet laureat, some time one of the representatives in parliament for this county, to William Hallet esq. the present proprietor. Mr. Hallet has also the manor of Wyke which belonged to Beaulieu abbey, and has passed by the same title.

^d Holinshed.

^e Ibid.

^f Clarendon.

^g Nov. 1, 1644. See Sir Edward Walker's

Historical Discourses, p. 120, 121.

^h Note to Pye's "Faringdon Hill," a poem.

ⁱ Heath's Chronicle, p. 107.

It appears by the ancient MS. in the Bodleian library already mentioned, that a very singular custom prevailed in the manor of Great Faringdon, somewhat similar to the mode of punishing the incontinency of widows in the manors of Chaddlesworth and Enborne. Every tenant's daughter, on being convicted of this crime, forfeited the sum of 40d. (a considerable sum in the reign of Henry III.) to the lord of the manor, which was not to be remitted, but on condition of the offender's appearing in the lord's court, *carrying a black sheep on her back*, and making confession of her shame^k. The manor of *Little Coxwell*, a hamlet of this parish (where is a chapel of ease), belonged also to Beaulieu abbey, and has passed with Great Coxwell to the present proprietor, the Earl of Radnor. The manor of Orde or Worde (now Littleworth), was anciently a member of the manor of Faringdon. It was granted by King Stephen to the monks of Thame^l, who, having surrendered it into the hands of King Henry II. that monarch gave it to the abbey of Stanley, in Wiltshire. By some subsequent resignation or exchange, it again reverted to the crown, and by the name, Word, or Wykingesham, was granted, together with the manor of Wadley (which appears also to have belonged to Stanley abbey, as an appurtenance of Word^m), successively to the families of Pembrugge and Talbotⁿ. King Henry V. granted the reversion of these manors to his brave comrade in arms, Sir Thomas Erpingham^o; but it does not appear, that he was ever actually in possession. They were afterwards granted to Sir William Porter^p; after his death, which happened in 1436^q, and that of Margaret Lady Talbot, who had an interest in them by way of dower, King Henry VI. gave both manors to the provost and scholars of Oriel College, in Oxford^r, under whom they have been ever since held on lease. The present lessee is William Yarnton Mills esq. who purchased this estate of the Pyes, in 1802. Wadley was, as early as 1531, the seat of the Untons or Umptons^s, from whom it passed by a female heir to the Purefoys. Henry Purefoy esq. of Wadley, was created a baronet in 1662. The title has long been extinct. Wadley was some time ago the seat of Charles Pye esq. who purchased the lease of Sir Willoughby Aston bart. about the year 1764. It is now the residence of Mr. Mills, the present lessee.

^k The words of the record are, "Si filia cujusquam (sc. tenentis) fuerit deprehensa in fornicatione, dabit domino quadraginta denarios, vel portabit nigrum ovem ad curiam domini, scilicet super dorsum suum, et dicet, Ecce porto pudorem posterioris mei."

^l It is not clear from the grant, which is without date, amongst the collection of ancient charters at the tower, who was the donor, but the recital in King Henry II.'s charter to the abbot and convent of Stanley, makes it sufficiently apparent, by stating, that it was given by the king's enemies to the monks of Thame, and by them surrendered to him. See Dugdale's Monasticon.

^m See Pope Nicholas's Taxation. ⁿ See Esch. 49 Edw. III. Pat. 50 Ed. III. and Esch. 12 H. VI.

^o See Esch. 6 and 12 Hen. VI.

^p Pat. 3 Hen. V.

^q Esch. 14 Hen. VI.

^r Pat. 18 Hen. VI.

^s Thomas Umpton esq. was sheriff that year.

The parish church of Faringdon is a spacious edifice of the earliest style of Gothic architecture. The low square tower is said to have sustained a spire destroyed in the civil war. In a chapel on the north side, called the Unton aisle, are monuments of the Purefoys of Wadley, and their ancestors Sir Alexander, Sir Edward, Sir Thomas, and Sir Henry Unton; that of Sir Alexander has figures in brass, of himself and his lady, habited in furcoats, with their arms blazoned. Sir Henry Unton, who resided at Wadley, was knighted for his bravery at the siege of Zutphen. He was twice ambassador from Queen Elizabeth to the court of France, where he distinguished himself, by sending a spirited challenge^t to the Duke of Guise, for speaking disrespectfully of his mistress. Sir Henry died during his second embassy, in 1596. His corpse was brought to England and buried at Faringdon; a baron's hearse being allowed him, as having been at the time of his death the queen's ambassador-leiger. A MS. account of his embassy, written by himself, is preserved in the Bodleian library. In the eastern part of the north aisle, which is called the Pleydell aisle, are memorials for the families of Pleydell and Pye. Sir Robert Pye, who died in 1701, married a daughter of the celebrated Hampden; they lived together 60 years, and died within a week of each other. In the nave is the tomb of Sir Marmaduke Rawdon, governor of Faringdon, who successfully defended the garrison against an attack of the parliamentary army, and died April 26, 1646.

Leland mentions a chapel in the church-yard at Faringdon, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, and a chantry founded by the Cheynes. There are no remains of either. The rectory of Faringdon was formerly a prebendal corps in the church of Salisbury, but has long ago been dissolved, and made a lay-fee; the impropriation, together with the advowson of the vicarage, is now annexed to the manor. The vicarage is within the deanery of Abingdon, but is in the peculiar jurisdiction of the dean of Salisbury. The parish has been inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1771, when allotments of land were assigned to the impropiator and to the vicar. The hamlet of *Little Coxwell*, which was not included under this act, has been inclosed by a subsequent act, under which, allotments of land were assigned to the vicar of Faringdon, and to G. F. Hewitt, James Crowdy, and Elizabeth his wife, as impropiators of the great tithes of that hamlet; an allotment was made to the poor for fuel.

FARNBOROUGH, in the hundred of Compton, lies about five miles to the north-east of Wantage, and about 11 miles north of Newbury. The manor is the property of Fulwar Craven esq. whose father, the late Rev. John Craven, acquired it

^t Printed in Fuller's Worthies.

in marriage with the daughter of Sir Jemmet Raymond, who, it is probable, inherited it, as he did his other estates in this county, from the Jemmets. In the parish church are some memorials of the family of Price. The Rev. Ralph Price is patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Newbury; the advowson belonged formerly to the abbey of Abingdon. This parish has been inclosed, pursuant to an act of parliament, passed in 1777, when an allotment of land was assigned to the rector in lieu of tithes. It appears by the act, that the lord of the manor was entitled to two-thirds of the tithes of 18 yard lands.

FAWLEY, in the hundred of Kentbury-Eagle, and deanery of Newbury, lies about five miles south of Wantage, and about four miles north-east of Lambourn. The manor of North-Fawley, with the church and the tithes of South Fawley, belonged from a very remote period, to the nuns of Ambresbury. The lay manor, which, at the time of taking the Norman Survey, was parcel of the royal demesne, was, during the 14th century, by the name of South-Fawley, in the ancient family of Polhampton^u, afterwards in the Kingstons^w. Some time after the reformation, both these manors became the property of Sir Francis Moore, author of the Reports, who had a seat at South Fawley. His son Henry was created a baronet in 1627. This family have been erroneously supposed to be descendants of Sir Thomas More. Neither the name nor arms are the same, nor does there appear to have been any connection between the families. Sir Thomas Moore bart. who now resides in Hampshire, is the present representative of the Moores of Fawley; the manor of which place was sold by Sir John Moore, in 1765, to the Vanfittarts, of whose family it was purchased, in 1778, by Batholomew Tipping esq. They are now the property of the Rev. Philip Wroughton and Mary Anne his wife, who was Mr. Tipping's niece, and sole heiress.

In the church is a memorial for Mary the wife of William Beverley esq. of Chaneho^x in Bedfordshire, who died in 1658, having lived a widow 57 years. She was mother of Dame Elizabeth Moore of South-Fawley.

The great tithes, which belonged to the nuns of Ambresbury, are the property of Mr. and Mrs. Wroughton, who are patrons of the vicarage.

FINCHAMPSTED, in the hundred of Charlton, and deanery of Reading, lies three miles and a half to the south-west of Wokingham. There were two manors in this parish; from a very early period; one of them which belonged, in 1306, to the family of Huse or Hoeſe^y, passed about 1369, by a female heir, to the Colneyes^z,

^u Esch. Edw. III. Richard de Polhampton was sheriff in 1311. and 1312.

^w Esch. Edw. IV.

^x Perhaps Cainhoe.

^y Esch. Edw. I.—Edw. III.

^z Esch. 43 Edw. III.

and

and was afterwards in the Pakenhams, who, in the reign of King Henry VI. procured a charter for an annual fair on the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday in Whitsun-week^a. In 1538, Edmund Mervyn, serjeant at law, who had married Elizabeth, one of the daughters of Sir Edmund Pakenham, conveyed this manor, by the name of East-Court, to Stephen Cawood. In 1560, Thomas Cawood conveyed it to the families of Hinde and Harrison. In 1583, the Harrisons had a renewed grant of the Whitsuntide fair, which has been now long discontinued. In 1661, Richard Harrison esq. son of Sir Richard Harrison of Hurst, sold the manor of East-Court to Richard Palmer esq. by whose descendant it was bequeathed to Henry Fyshe esq. of Ickwell in Bedfordshire, father of Charles Fyshe Palmer esq. the present proprietor.

The other manor, now called West-Court, was confirmed to Robert Achard, in 1318^b, and passed, by female heirs, to the De la Mares and Forsters, under whom, as superior lords, it was held by the family of Perkins^c, as early as the year 1508. From this family it passed, by purchase, to George Tattershall esq. of Stapleford, in the county of Wilts, whose daughter brought it in marriage to the Honourable Charles Howard, fourth son of the Earl of Arundel. It is now the property of the Rev. Ellis St. John, whose father's maternal uncle, James Goodyer esq. purchased it of Mr. Howard. An annual fair is held on the first Wednesday in April, within Mr. St. John's manor. *Eversley* is a hamlet in this parish.

FRILSHAM, or FRIDLESHAM, a very small village in the hundred of Faircross, lies about eight miles to the north-east of Newbury. Sir Hugh Berwick died seised of the manor in 1409^d: in 1424 it was in the Hautes^e; afterwards in the Norris family^f, from whom it passed, by marriage, to the Berties. The late Earl of Abingdon sold it, about the year 1762, to Sir George Cornwall, of whom it was purchased in 1800, together with the advowson of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Newbury, by the present proprietor, Mr. Hayward.

FYFIELD, formerly FYFHIDE, in the hundred of Ock, lies about five miles from Abingdon, and nine from Faringdon, on the London road. It was formerly the property and seat of the family of Golafre. John Golafre was knight of the shire in 1337. Sir John Golafre was employed in an embassy to France, in 1389^g. Either this Sir John Golafre, or a son of the same name, died seised of the manor of

^a Cart. 27—39 Hen. VI. ^b Cart. Edw. II. ^c Ancient Survey of the manor of Aldermaston, in the possession of Mr. Congreve. ^d Esch. 25 Hen. VI. ^e Placit. &c. de terris in Turr. Lond. Co. Berks. No. 38. ^f Esch. Hen. VII. ^g Knighton inter Decem Scriptores, p. 2698.

Fyfield, in 1442^b. The same year a licence was granted by the crown, for the foundation of a chantry, at the altar of St. John the Baptist, pursuant to the will of Sir John Golafre, who is styled in the charter, servant to King Henry V. and King Henry VI.; the chaplain of the chantry was to be called master of the House of St. John the Baptist, at Fyfieldⁱ. It was endowed with Fyfield Grove, and the manors of Baldwin's Court and Wyke, in Charlton. Francis Little, in his MS. History of Abingdon^k, says that the daughter and heir of the last-mentioned Sir John Golafre married John De la Pole, Earl of Lincoln, who lost his life at the battle of Stoke, and was attainted of treason. The manor and advowson of Fyfield were purchased of the representatives of Lady Gordon, who died about the year 1527, by Sir Thomas White, who gave them to the president and scholars of St. John's College, in Oxford, founded by him in 1555: the present lessee under the college is Mr. John Dalton.

In the north aisle of the parish church is the monument of Sir John Golafre, who died in 1442. His effigies in armour lies on an open altar tomb, beneath which is the figure of a skeleton in a shroud. The common people call it Gulliver's tomb, and say, that the figure on the top represents him in the vigour of youth; the skeleton in his old age: the arms of Golafre are on the tomb, and in the windows of the church. In the same aisle are several memorials of the family of White, who resided at Fyfield, and were, till of late years, lessees of the manor, by virtue of a grant from their collateral ancestor, Sir Thomas White, to his brother, previously to the foundation of the college. On the north side of the chancel is an altar tomb, from which the brass plates have been removed, in memory of Lady Gordon, above mentioned. It stands under an obtuse arch, with a roof of rich tracery blue and gold; over the arch is a cornice, of gilt foliage. The editor of Ashmole's Collections says, it was called the monument of Lady Gorgon. In the chancel are memorials of the families of Dale and Perrot, of North-Leigh, descended from Sir Thomas White's sister. Charles Perrot LL.D. who died in 1686, was thrice chosen to represent the university of Oxford, in parliament. The president and scholars of St. John's College are patrons of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Abingdon. The great tithes are vested in the college. In 1711, an augmentation of 30*l. per annum*, arising out of the tithes, was settled on the vicar and his successors. The Lovedens had a seat at Fyfield, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth^l. A branch of the family of Norris, of Yattendon, were settled there, for four generations^m. John Norris, of Fyfield, was knighted by Queen Elizabeth, at Reading, in 1601.

^b Esch. 20 Hen. VI.
Pedigrees, Brit. Mus.

ⁱ Pat. 20 Hen. VI.
^m Ibid.

^k See p. 222.

^l Berkshire

EAST-GARSTON, in the hundred of Lambourn, lies about two miles and a half from Lambourn, and about ten from Newbury. In the reign of King John, the manor was the property of Sir Thomas de Londres, or London, Lord of Kidwelly, in Wales, whose daughter and heir, Hawise, brought it to Patrick de Chaworth^a. Paine, his son, left a daughter and heir, married to Henry Duke of Lancaster, after whose death, on a partition of his estates, it passed to his eldest daughter Maud, who married Ralph, son and heir of the Lord Stafford, and afterwards William Duke of Zeland^b. On the death of the Duchess of Bavaria, it was inherited by John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, in right of his wife Blanch. This manor was held by the service of finding a knight, clad in plate armour, to serve in the king's army, for forty days, at the lord's cost, whenever he should be in the territory of Kidwelly, in Wales, of which manor this was a member^c. The Duke of Lancaster had also a manor, called Poghly^d, in this parish, which was assigned, with East-Garston, to his daughter Maud. It is now a farm, the property of Mr. James Harbert. Early in the 17th century, the manor of East-Garston belonged to the Gastrells^e, in whose family it continued a considerable time; and having passed to the family of Jones of Ramfbury, is now the property of Sir Francis Burdett bart.

The manor, or manor-farm, of Maidencote, in this parish, was anciently in the Beauchamps of Hacche^f, afterwards in the Moores, of Fawley^g. It is now the property of Joseph Butler esq.

In the parish church are memorials of the families of Gastrell, and of the Elfyngs, descended from Henry Elfyng, clerk of the House of Lords, in the reign of Charles I. and keeper of his Majesty's records in the tower of London. Sir Francis Burdett holds the great tithes on lease, under Christ's Church College, in Oxford. The dean and chapter are patrons of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Newbury. This parish has been inclosed, under an act of parliament, passed in 1771; the lands were not exonerated from tithes.

GOOSEY, in the hundred of Ock, has a parochial chapel, dependant on Stanford, in the vale of White-horse, from which it is two miles distant. The manor was given to the monks of Abingdon, by king Offa, in exchange for the isle of Andresey, in the Thames, near their convent, which he wanted for the purpose of building a palace^h. In the reign of Charles I.ⁱ it was in the family of Matthews, in whom it continued till it was purchased by the father of Clement Saxton esq. the present proprietor.

^a Esch. Edw. I.^b Dugdale's Baronage.^c Blount's Tenures.^d Dugdale.^e Bib. Top. Brit.^f Esch. Edw. III.^g Esch. Car. I.^h Dugdale's Monasticon.ⁱ Esch.

EAST-HAGBOURN, in the hundred of Moreton, lies about six miles north-west of Wallingford, and about eight miles nearly south of Abingdon. Sir Edward Walker, in his *Historical Discourses*^y, informs us, that the parliamentary army, under the command of the Earl of Essex, were quartered at this village, on the 24th of May, 1644, on their route from Reading to Abingdon.

The manor of East-Hagbourn, with the church, was given by King Henry I. to his newly-founded monastery of Cirencester^z. It is probable, that the abbot had an occasional residence here, a park being mentioned in the grant of the manor to Sir Francis Knolles, after the reformation^a. This manor is now the property of the Earl of Craven, in whose family it has been nearly two centuries.

The manor of *West-Hagbourn*, a hamlet in this parish, which appears to have had formerly a chapel of ease, was in the family of Windfor, from the time of William the Conqueror till the reign of Henry VI.^b or perhaps later. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, being then in the Newton family, it passed, by a female heir, to a younger branch of the Windfors^c. Sir Andrew Windfor died seised of it in 1632, soon after which it came to the Pococks, and is now the property of John Blagrave Pocock esq.

The manor of Watlingtons, in West-Hagbourn, was granted in 1231 to Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, and was afterwards in the Windfors^d. It is now the property of Sir John Pollen bart. who inherits it from the families of Sherwood and Cowper.

The parish church is a handsome Gothic structure: the north aisle was built by John Yorke, who died in 1413, as appears by his epitaph^e. He married Claricia, relict of Richard de Windfor, and was, in her right, lord of the manor of West-Hagbourn. There are some memorials in this church for the family of Keate, of Hodcot; and a sarcophagus, in memory of the late John Phillips esq. of Culham.

The great tithes of East and West-Hagbourn belonged to the abbey of Cirencester. They have since passed, with the manor of East-Hagbourn, and are now held under Lord Craven, on a lease for lives, by John Phillips esq. of Culham. The Rev. John Scoolt, of Wallingford, is patron of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Abingdon.

^y Page 14. ^z Dugdale. ^a Records in the Augmentation Office. ^b Esch. temp. Hen. VI.

^c Esch. 8 Eliz. ^d Esch. Car. 1. ^e "Orate specialiter pro animâ Johannis Yorke fundatoris illius *ile* qui obiit, 14 Jul. MCCCCXIII." It is erroneously stated by Collins, that Richard de Windfor married the relict of John Yorke; for it appears that Richard de Windfor died in 1367, John Yorke in 1413. Collins quotes Ashmole's Berkshire, and has misconstrued the epitaph of Claricia Wyndser there printed: that of Yorke is omitted.

Near Hagbourn church is a cross, with a tall taper shaft, on an ascent of steps. At *Croffcot*, or *Cofscot*, a small hamlet about half a mile distant, is also a small cross; and another by the road side between Croffcot and Hagbourn. An annual fair is held at East-Hagbourn, on the Thursday before October 11.

EAST-HAMPSTED, in the hundred of Ripplemere, lies about three miles to the south-east of Wokingham.

East-Hampsted park was, for many years, a royal residence. We are told that Richard II. went thither to recreate himself with hunting, in the month of August, 1381^f. In 1531, Queen Catherine, being at East-Hampsted park, the king sent some of the lords of his council thither to persuade her to be conformable to his will, and consent to a divorce^g. Sir Richard Coningsby was keeper of East-Hampsted park, in 1607^h. King James I. appears to have resided there in 1622ⁱ and 1623^k. Soon after this the park was granted to William Trumbull esq. agent for King James I. and King Charles I. at Brussels, and one of the clerks of the Privy Council: from him it descended to his grandson, Sir William Trumbull, one of the principal secretaries of state, in the reign of William III. the friend and correspondent of Pope; who, having some years before retired from public life, died at East-Hampsted, in 1716, and was there buried. His epitaph, written by that poet, is extant in his works, but is not inscribed on his monument in East-Hampsted church. In Pope's works, also, is to be found the epitaph, written by him on Fenton, the poet, who died at East-Hampsted in 1732, whilst on a visit to Lady Trumbull, Sir William's widow, and was there buried.

The prior and convent of Hurley had a manor at East-Hampsted, which, after the reformation, was, together with the advowson of the rectory, in the Lovelace family^l, and afterwards came to the Trumbulls. The advowson now belongs to Christ-Church college, in Oxford. The manor and park are the property of the Marchioness of Downshire, whose father, the Hon. Martin Sandys, married the grand-daughter and sole representative of Sir William Trumbull. Dr. Durell, the late principal of Hertford college, who distinguished himself as a learned divine and biblical critic, was rector of this parish^m.

HAMPSTED-MARSHALL, in the hundred of Kentbury-Eagle, lies four miles west of Newbury, and six miles south-east of Hungerford. The manor was successively the

^f Holingshed.

^g Ibid.

^h Norden's Survey of Windfor Forest, in the British Museum.

ⁱ Sir Francis Englefield was knighted at East-Hampsted, in 1622.—Baronetage.

^k There is a sermon in print, preached before the court at East-Hampsted, by George Warburton.

^l Esch. Car. I.

^m Biograph. Brit.

property of the Mareschalls, or Marshalls, Earls of Pembroke, from whom it took the additional name, the Bigods and Brothertons, Earls of Norfolk, and Earls Marshall of Englandⁿ. Thomas, Earl of Norfolk, gave it in marriage with his daughter Alice, to William de Montacute, in 1333^o. It was afterwards in the family of Hankeford^p. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth it belonged to the Parrys. Camden tells us, that Sir Thomas Parry, treasurer of the household to that queen, who was son of Thomas Parry esq. of the same place^q, built a fine house at Hampsted-Marshall. About the year 1620, this manor passed, by purchase, to the Cravens; and Hampsted-Marshall became one of the chief seats of that family. In the year 1626, Sir William Craven, son of Sir William Craven, Lord Mayor of London, was created Baron Craven, of Hampsted-Marshall; and, in 1662, for services which he had rendered to his exiled master, during the protectorate of Cromwell, and the losses which he had sustained by confiscation, was created an earl. The same year, the house built by Sir Thomas Parry having been pulled down, Sir Balthazer Gerbier began "a stately pile of building" for him at Hampsted-Marshall, which was finished in the year 1665^r. Some clumsy brick-piers, which remain in the park, ornamented with sphinxes and gryphons, afford but an unfavourable specimen of the architect's taste. The house was almost wholly destroyed by fire, in 1718^s: a singular fate for the mansion of this noble earl, who was so celebrated for his activity in assisting to extinguish fires in the city of London, and its suburbs, that it became a common saying, that his horse, for he always attended on horseback at the first notice, smelt a fire as soon as it happened. Sir Balthazer Gerbier, the architect, who professed also the art of painting, and is well known by his eccentric projects and numerous publications, died on a visit at Hampsted-Marshall, in 1667, and lies buried in the parish church, where, since Ashmole's time^t, the slab which covers his remains has been inscribed with a short epitaph to his memory. Upon the death of Earl Craven, in 1697, the earldom became extinct: the title of Baron Craven, of Hampsted-Marshall, in consequence of an entail procured by the earl, devolved to the Cravens, of Combe-Abbey, in Warwickshire, whose descendant was created Earl of Craven in 1801, and is now lord of the manor of Hampsted-Marshall, and patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Newbury.

ⁿ Dugdale.^o Pat. 7 Edw. III.^p Esch. Hen. VI.^q Berkshire Pedigrees.

^r See Sir Balthazer's epitaph, at Hampsted-Marshall. There is a view of this house, engraved by Kip, in the *Theatre de la Grande Bretagne*, pl. 45. ^s Ibid. ^t In Ashmole's Berkshire, it is said that there is no inscription on his tomb.

HAMPSTED-NORRIS, in the hundred of Faircross, lies about seven miles to the north-east of Newbury, and about five miles south-east of Ilfley. It was successively called Hampsted-Cifrewaft, Hampsted-Ferrars, and Hampsted-Norris, as the manor successively belonged to those families. The Cifrewafts, or Sifrewafts, possessed it in the reign of Henry III.^a In 1269, Nicholas Sifrewaft conveyed it in fee to Thomas de Clare, the king's secretary^x. In 1450, William Lord Ferrars, of Chartley, died seised of the manor of Hampsted-Cifrewaft, alias Hampsted-Ferrars^y, which his ancestors had for some time possessed, it having been brought into the family by the daughter and heir of Robert Musgros, to whom this manor was confirmed by King Edward I. in 1275^z. In the reign of Henry VII. this manor was in the Norris family^a, from whom it descended to the Berties. The Honourable Peregrine Bertie, brother of the late Earl of Abingdon, sold it to Sir John Gallini, whose son, John Andrea Gallini esq. is the present proprietor.

The manor of *Bodenhampsted*, or *Bothampsted*, a hamlet in this parish, was successively in the De la Beches and Langfords^b; afterwards in the families of Norris and Bertie, and belongs now to Mr. Gallini.

The manor of Langley, together with the manor or farm of Bradley, in the adjoining parish of Chevely, was for many years in the Veres, Earls of Oxford^c. Langley was afterwards in the De la Poles, of whom it was purchased by the ancestors of Sir Thomas Head knt.^d whose eldest son, in the year 1769, took the name of James, by act of parliament, in consequence of inheriting considerable estates from that family, in the parish of Avington, and elsewhere, now the property of his brother, Sir Walter James James, who, in 1791, was created a baronet, being described of Langley park, which has been his occasional residence. Near the house is a chapel of ease.

The manor of Colrugge, in this parish, was many years in the Windsor family^e. Sir Hugh Berwyk died seised of the manor of Elyng, in Hampsted-Norris, in 1409^f. In 1424, this manor was in the family of Haute^g, and afterwards successively in the families of Norris and Bertie: it is now the property of Mr. Robert Hayward, who purchased it of Sir George Cornwall bart.

Hermitage, Wild, and Little Hungerford, are in this parish.

The great tithes of Hampsted-Norris were appropriated to the priory of Goring in Oxfordshire; the rectorial estate now belongs to the Marchioness of Downshire, who is patroness of the vicarage. This parish, which lies within the deanery of New-

^a See Claus. 2 Hen. III.

^x Pat. 54 Hen. III.

^y Esch. Hen. VI.

^z Cart. 4 Edw. I.

^a Esch. Hen. VII.

^b Esch. Edw. III. and Hen. VIII.

^c Esch. Edw. I. and Hen. IV.

^d From the information of Sir W. J. James bart.

^e Esch. Hen. V. &c.

^f Esch. Hen. IV.

^g Bundell. Placit. &c. in Turr. Lond. Co. Berks, No. 38.

bury, has been inclosed, under an act of parliament, passed in 1771, when allotments of land were assigned to the impropiator, and to the vicar, in lieu of tithes.

HANNEY, in the hundred of Wanting, lies about three miles and a half north of Wantage, and about seven miles south-west of Abingdon. The manor of West-Hanney belonged to the alien priory of Newenton-Longueville in Buckinghamshire, after the suppression of which, it was given by King Henry VI. with other lands which had belonged to that priory, to the warden and scholars of New College in Oxford, in whom it is still vested.

The Eystons had a manor in West-Hanney in the reign of King Henry VIII.^b, being the same, it is probable, which is now the property of Charles Dewe esq. and which was purchased by his family in the year 1676.

The manor of North-Denchworth in this parish, was purchased in the reign of King John, of Ralph de Camois, one of the rebellious barons, by Adam Fettiplace, who seems to have been the first of that ancient family who settled in Berkshireⁱ. His posterity resided many years at North-Denchworth, and spread themselves into various parts of the county. They continued to possess this manor, although it had long been deserted as a residence, until the death of Sir George Fettiplace bart. the last heir male of the family, who died in 1743, when it passed by a female heir to the son of Robert Bushell esq. of Castle-Pryor in Worcestershire, who took the name of Fettiplace, and was father of Charles Fettiplace esq. the present proprietor. The manor of Andrews-Court in West-Hanney, belonged to the Fettiplaces in 1443^k: although we could not ascertain the fact, as the ancient name seems to have been lost, yet it is probable that this estate still forms a part of Mr. Fettiplace's property in West-Hanney.

The hamlet of *East-Hanney*, in this parish, lies partly within the hundred of Wanting, and partly within that of Ock. In this hamlet were formerly three manors, one of which belonged to the priory of Noion, in Normandy; this manor, by the name of East-Hanney, *alias* Prior's Hanney, was in the Wellesburn family about the middle of the sixteenth century^l. Paul Ambrose Cooke died seised of it in 1631^m; after his death, it passed in marriage with his daughter, to the family of Heath: it is probable that this is the same manor, which, during the greater part of the last century, was in the Wymondesolds, and is now the property of I. P. Bastard esq. M. P. who married the widow of the late Mr. Wymondesold.

John, Baron St. Philibert, who died in 1333, was seised of a manor in East-Hanneyⁿ, which from him acquired the name of Philberd's-Court. It belonged

^b Esch. 37 Hen. VIII.

ⁱ Berkshire Pedigrees in the British Museum No. 1535. Harl. MSS.

^k Esch. Hen. VI.

^l Esch. Ph. and Mar. and Eliz.

^m Esch. Car. I.

ⁿ Esch. 7 Edw. III.

afterwards

afterwards to Alice Perrers, the favourite of King Edward III. and was given, upon her attainder, to John Holland, Earl of Huntingdon^p, who, being then Duke of Exeter, was himself attainted in the year 1400. This manor was granted the same year to John Windfor^q. Its subsequent history we have not been able to ascertain, or to learn any thing farther of an estate, formerly called Bullock's Manor in this hamlet, than that it belonged to the family of Yate in the reign of Queen Elizabeth^r.

An act of parliament for inclosing the hamlet of East-Hanney, passed in 1803, when allotments of land were assigned to Sir William Jerningham in lieu of a portion of tithes, and to the other impropiators according to their respective interests.

Lyford, which lies two miles to the north-west of Hanney, in the hundred of Ock, is a small hamlet of this parish, with a chapel of ease. In the fourteenth century, the manor belonged to the Coudrays^s, afterwards to the Pophams^t, and at a later period, to the Ayscomb^u. Oliver Ayscomb^e esq. was created a baronet in 1696; dying without male issue in 1718, the title became extinct. The manor of Lyford was purchased, in 1764, of Mr. Robert Greenaway, by the trustees under Mrs. Sarah Eaton's will, who, in 1775, conveyed it to the provost and scholars of Worcester College in Oxford. One of the Ayscombe family founded an alms-house at Lyford, in 1603, for 10 poor women, eight of whom have an allowance of four shillings a-week each, the other two 3s. 6d. only. Robert Belcher founded a free-school at this place in 1702. The hamlet of Lyford has been inclosed by an act of parliament, which passed in 1801, when allotments of land were assigned in lieu of the rectorial and vicarial tithes. The provost and scholars of Worcester College were entitled to a portion of the former; the remainder belonged to the impropiators of West-Hanney.

In the parish church at West-Hanney is the tomb of Sir Christopher Lytcott, who twice served the office of sheriff of the county. He was knighted by King Henry IV. of France, in the camp before Rouen in 1591, and died at Basilden in 1599. There are several memorials also for the families of Ayscombe^x and Yate of Lyford, and a tablet for Edward Bowles, who died in 1685, aged 89, and Elizabeth his wife, who died in 1718, at the great age of 124. The dean and chapter of Salisbury are patrons of the vicarage of West-Hanney; the great tithes are held under the procurator and vicars of that cathedral. The Eystons were formerly

^p Pat. 12 Ric. II.

^q Pat. 1 Hen. IV.

^r Esch. Eliz.

^s Esch. Edw. III.

^t Esch. Hen. IV. and Hen. V.

^u Esch. Eliz.

^x The earliest date is that of John Ayscombe esq. who died in 1592. John Ayscombe, his son, served the office of sheriff of the county, and died in 1655, at the age of 97.

leffees; the lease is now held in moieties by Mrs. Sarah Bowles and the family of Godfrey.

HARWELL, in the hundred of Moreton, lies between seven and eight miles from Wallingford, on the road to Wantage, and about six miles south of Abingdon. The manor belonged to Richard, Earl of Cornwall, King of the Romans^y; his son Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, died seized of it in 1299^z. In 1338, King Edward III. granted it to Sir Nicholas De la Beche^a, from whom, it is probable, that it descended to the Langfords. In Queen Elizabeth's reign, this manor, by the name of Princes-Harwell, was in the Loder family^b. It was afterwards in the Raymonds, from whom it passed, by marriage, to the Rev. John Craven lately deceased: it is now the property of Sir John Chetwode bart.

Another manor in this parish, called the Bishop's Manor, belonged to the see of Winchester as early as the time of Cardinal Beaufort^c: Richard Hopkins esq. is the present lessee under the bishop.

A tablet in the parish church records a singular benefaction of Christopher Elderfield, an eminent divine, who was a native of this parish, and died in 1652: "he gave lands for the purpose of purchasing, in the spring of every year, two milch cows to be given to two of the poorest men in the parish of Harwell, (burthened with families,) for their sustentation." His benevolent intentions have proved abortive from the impossibility of a poor man's procuring pasture for a cow in this parish, where the land is chiefly arable. The trustees of the charity purchase two cows or oxen, in the winter, if the rent of the lands will suffice, kill them, and distribute the meat among the poor. A lady of the name of Jennings, founded an alms-house in the year 1715, for six poor widows, and endowed it with an allowance of 2s. 6d. weekly to each, and an annual sum for clothes. Mr. Anthony Loder gave an estate, which now produces 32l. *per annum*, for the education of 12 poor children. Mr. Eaton, who died vicar of this place in 1772, gave a house to the school-master, and a considerable benefaction to the poor.

The great tithes of Harwell, which were given by Edward the Black Prince to the College of St. Nicholas in Wallingford Castle, belonged, some years ago, to the family of Jennings, who sold them to Sir Jemmet Raymond. They have since passed with the manor. Sir John Chetwode is patron of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Abingdon. This parish has been inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1802. The lands were not exonerated from tithes.

HATFORD, in the hundred of Ganfield, lies about three miles and a half to the south-east of Faringdon. The manor, in the reign of King Henry III. belonged to

^y Esch. 56 Hen. III.

^z Esch. 28 Edw. 1.

^a Pat. 12 Edw. III.

^b Esch. 37 Eliz.

^c Pat. 20 Hen. VI.

Sir Robert de Hatford; at a later period it belonged to Thomas Chaucer, son of the poet^d, and was probably part of the inheritance of his wife, who was an heiress of the family of Burgherft. Alice, the daughter and heir of Thomas Chaucer, brought it in marriage to William De la Pole, Duke of Suffolk. It became vested in the crown, by attainder, in the reign of King Henry VIII. and was soon afterwards granted in fee-farm to Sir Alexander Unton^e, in whose family it continued till the death of Sir Henry Unton, in 1596. Of late years it has undergone various alienations, and is now the property of Mrs. Walker, by inheritance from her brother, the late Joseph Nutt esq. In the parish church are some memorials of the Pigott family. On the north side of the chancel is a tomb, supposed to be that of the founder; who is said, by tradition, to have been Sir Robert de Hatford. Mrs. Uvedale, sister of the late incumbent, is patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Abingdon.

EAST-HENDRED, in the hundreds of Wanting and Reading, lies about four miles east of Wantage, and six miles and a half nearly south of Abingdon. It has been erroneously supposed that East-Hendred was a great market town, which began to decay after the dissolution of monasteries. It is true that it had anciently a market on Tuesdays, long ago disused; but it appears, by an account of the number of inhabitants taken by order of Cardinal Pole in 1555^f, that there were then only 200, whereas their number, in the year 1801, according to the returns then made to parliament under the Population Act, was 685. The clothing manufacture appears to have been formerly carried on at East-Hendred^g: an annual fair is held there on the 11th of October. There are five manors in this parish: the King's manor was anciently part of the royal demesnes, and afterwards belonged to the abbey of Noion, in Normandy^h. After the suppression of alien priories, King Henry VI. gave it to the Carthusian monastery of Sheen, granting the monks very extensive powers, privileges, and immunities, within the manor; the market above-mentioned, and two fairs at the festivals of St. Augustin and St. Katherineⁱ. This manor has continued in the Crown ever since the dissolution: the stewardship of it, being a nominal office in the gift of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, is one of the places given for the purpose of vacating a seat in the House of Commons. Within this manor was an ancient chapel, supposed to have been built by the monks of Sheen, called the chapel of Jesus of Bethlehem, and afterwards Champ's chapel. It is now converted into two tenements.

^d See Esch. 15 Hen. VI.
leian Library.

^e Records in the Augmentation Office.

^f See Bib. Top. Brit.

^g See Pat. 6 John.

^h MS. in the Bodleian Library.
ⁱ Dugdale's Monast.

The Abbey manor was given to the abbot and convent of Reading by the Empress Maud^k. After the dissolution, it was granted by King Henry VIII. to Henry Norris, in whose family it continued till 1616^l; after an intermediate alienation to Fenton, it was purchased, in 1622, of the Earl of Kelly, by Sir Peter Vanlore, who, the same year, sold it to William Eyston esq. ancestor of the present proprietor.

The warden and scholars of New College in Oxford have a manor in East-Hendred, which belonged to the priory of Littlemoor, near Oxford. The priory of Frampton, in Dorsetshire, had a manor in this parish, which came into the hands of the crown on the suppression of alien monasteries: John Duke of Bedford died seized of it in 1436^m. It belonged afterwards to the dean and chapter of Windsor, who surrendered it to King Henry VIII. In 1539 it was granted to John Winchcombe, whose grandson sold it in 1602, to John Sherwood esq.ⁿ It is now, by inheritance, the property of Sir John Pollen bart.

The manor of Arches appears to have been, from time immemorial, in lay hands. In 1171 it belonged to William Crosseby, from whose family it passed to the Turbeviles, and from the Turbeviles, by a female heir, to the family of Arches, or De Arcubus, about the year 1381. William Eyston of Isleworth, in the county of Middlesex, married Isabel, daughter of John Stow by Maud his wife, daughter and heir of William Rawlin de Arches^o: it is now the property of Basil Eyston esq. a lineal descendant of William Eyston above-mentioned. In the manor-house is an ancient chapel, mentioned in writings as early as the year 1323^p, and called the chapel of St. Amand and John the Baptist. It is neatly fitted up, and used by Mr. Eyston's family, who are of the Roman Catholic religion, for the celebration of divine service. Mr. Eyston's principal farm is the site of the abbey manor, which lies within the hundred of Reading.

In the reign of Edward I. John Paternoster held a virgate of land in this parish, by the service of saying a *pater-noster* every day for the king's soul. The land is still called Paternoster-bank^q. In the parish church are several memorials of the Eystons. The bishop of Salisbury is patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Abingdon. That part of the parish of East-Hendred called Westmanfide, excepting such lands as lay in Fox mead and Ardington mead, were inclosed by act of parliament in 1801: the lands were not exonerated from tithes.

^k Dugdale's Monasticon.

^l From the information of Mr. Eyston.

^m Esch. 14 Hen. VI.

ⁿ Ashmole's Berks. vol. III.

^o Ibid.

^p Amicia de Arches, in 1323, grants to William her son, all her manors in East-Hendred, with the advowson of the chapel there. Ashmole.

The chapel of East-Hendred is rated in Pope Nicholas's *Valor* at 3l. 6s. 8d.

^q Ashmole's Berks.

WEST-HENDRED, or LITTLE-HENDRED, in the hundred of Wantage, lies about three miles east of Wantage, and about seven miles south-west of Abingdon. A manor in West-Hendred, was anciently in the Lifles, who held it by grand serjeanty by the service of buying the king's ale^r. William Sperholt purchased it of the Lifles in the reign of King Edward I.^s and his descendants for many years possessed it, together with the manor of Sperholt, or Sperholt-court, in this parish^t; which was, at a later period, the seat of the Wisemans. Sir Charles Wiseman, who was sheriff of the county in 1612, died seised of it in 1635^u. It continued in his descendants till about the year 1720, belonged afterwards to the Clarkes of Ardington, and is now the property of Mr. W. Towsey of Wantage. The house, adjoining to which was an old chapel of ease, has been pulled down.

Another manor in West-Hendred, with the advowson of the rectory, was given by Nigel de Albini, to the abbey of St. Albans^x, and afterwards became the property of the prior and convent of Wallingford. In 1536 this manor, with the rectory, were given by King Henry VIII. in exchange for the manor of East-Moulsey, in Surrey, to the president and scholars of Corpus Christi-College in Oxford^y, who are now impropiators of the great tithes, and patrons of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Abingdon.

The manor of East-Ginge, in this parish, belonged anciently to the Pluknets^z, afterwards to the Benhams and Giffards^a, and is now the property of Mr. May.

NORTH or LAWRENCE-HINKSEY, commonly called FERRY-HINKSEY, in the hundred of Hormer, lies about a mile from Oxford. It was formerly esteemed a hamlet of Cumner, till Montague, the second Earl of Abingdon, endowed the chapel with vicarial tithes, and made it a separate parish. The manor, which belonged to the abbot and convent of Abingdon, was granted to Owen and Bridges, and by them conveyed, in 1547, to Sir John Williams and Sir John Gresham knts. At a later period it was for many years in the family of Perrot. It is now the property of Earl Harcourt, having been purchased by his father, the late Earl.

In the parish church is a memorial for Thomas Willis gent. who lost his life in the royal cause at the siege of Oxford, August 4, 1643. He was father of Dr. Willis, the celebrated physician, and ancestor of Brown Willis the antiquary who restored the inscription, and recorded on the same stone the death of one of his own

^r Blount's Tenures.

^s Parliamentary Rolls, vol. I. p. 8.

^t See Esch. Edw. III.

^u Esch. Car. I. where it is called the manor of Sperholt, alias Southcote.

^x Dugdale's Monasticon, vol. III. p. 11.

^y Records in the Augmentation Office.

^z Esch. Edw. I.

^a Esch. Edw. III.—Eliz.

sons. On the monument of William Finmore, fellow of St. John's college, who died in 1646, is an epitaph with this quaint beginning: "Reader, look to thy feet, honest and loyal men are sleeping under them. Here lies, &c." very erroneously printed in Ashmole's Berkshire: there are other memorials of the same family. In the church-yard is a cross, with a tall fluted shaft. The parish of North-Hinksey has been inclosed by an act of parliament, which passed in 1776; in this act the benefice is called a vicarage. An allotment of land was assigned to the vicar, and an allotment to Earl Harcourt as impropiator of the great tithes. The Earl of Abingdon and Earl Harcourt are alternate patrons of the benefice.

SOUTH-HINKSEY, in the hundred of Hormer, about two miles south of Oxford, formerly a hamlet of Cumner, was made a separate parish at the same time, and in the same manner, as North-Hinksey. The manor, which belonged to the abbot and convent of Abingdon, was granted to Owen and Bridges, passed to the families of Williams, Norris, and Bertie, and is now the property of the Earl of Abingdon. John Piers, archbishop of York, was a native of South Hinksey.

HINTON, in the hundred of Ganfield, lies about six miles to the north-east of Faringdon, a little to the north of the road to Abingdon. It was anciently parcel of the barony of St. Walery, from which circumstance it acquired the name of Hinton-Walerys, which, by length of time, has been corrupted to Waldrish and Waldrige. Henry de St. Walery, who had been one of the rebellious barons in the reign of King John, had this manor restored to him by King Henry III. in 1216^b, and the next year procured a charter for a market at Hinton on Wednesdays^c, which has been disused from time immemorial. Not long afterwards the family of St. Walery being extinct, the manor of Hinton became successively the property of Walter de Langton, Lord Chancellor^d, Hugh le Despencer the elder^e, and Thomas Brotherton, Duke of Norfolk. The latter surrendered it to the crown in 1332^f, and it was the same year given to William de Bohun, Earl of Northampton^g: on a division of the property of his descendant, the Earl of Hereford, in 1421, this manor came to the king. In 1483 it was granted to Henry Duke of Buckingham, as having been formerly of the inheritance of the Bohuns^h. Hinton is now the property and seat of the Rev. John Loder, in whose family it has been for several generations; Mr. Loder is patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Abingdon. This parish has been inclosed by an act of parliament passed in 1760, when an allotment of land was assigned to the rector in lieu of tithes. *Duxford* is a hamlet of Hinton.

^b Cl. 1 Hen. III.
Cl. 6 Edw. III.

^c Cl. 2 Hen. III.
^g Pat. 6 Edw. III.

^d Cart. 35 Edw. I.
^h Dugdale.

^e Cart. 11 Edw. II.

HUNGERFORD, in the hundred of Kentbury-Eagle, is a market-town, on the banks of the Kennet, and on the road to Bath, 64 miles from London. A considerable part of the parish, which is divided into four tithings, is in the county of Wilts. The tithing of Charnam-Street is wholly in that county; that of Sandon-fee is partly in Wiltshire, and partly in Berkshire. The tithings of Hungerford, and Eddington, with Newtown, are wholly in Berkshire. The probability of Eddington being the *Ethandune* of the Saxon Chronicle, has been already shewnⁱ. It is probable also, that it was the *Ethandune*, left by Alfred, with other estates in this county, to his wife Ealhswitha. The market at Hungerford, which is on Wednesdays, has been held from time immemorial. It is mentioned as an established market, in a record of the year 1297^k. There are three fairs; the last Wednesday in April, the last Wednesday in September, and the first Wednesday in October. The town is governed by a constable, who is chosen annually. The number of inhabitants, according to the return made to parliament in 1801, was 1987. The town of Hungerford does not appear in the Survey of Domesday, unless it be by the name of *Inglefol*. Camden says, the old name of Hungerford was Ingleford-Charnam-Street. Perhaps the name of Ingleford applied only to the site of the manor of Hungerford-Ingleford, in this parish. The name of Hungerford occurs, as now spelt, in a record of the year 1204^l. The Earl of Essex, quartered his army at Hungerford, before the first battle of Newbury, in 1643^m. The king was at this town soon after the second battle of Newbury, in 1644ⁿ.

The manor of Hungerford was the property of Robert Fitz-parnell, Earl of Leicester, and afterwards of Sayer de Quincy, Earl of Winchester, who married one of his daughters and co-heirs^o. In 1297, King Edward I. granted it to Edmund, Earl of Lancaster^p, from whom it descended to John of Gaunt, who granted the inhabitants a fishery of considerable extent in the Kennet. His son Henry, before his accession to the throne, being then Duke of Lancaster, granted the manor, together with the town and Hungerford park, to Sir Walter Hungerford, who died seised of it in 1448^q. During the wars between the houses of York and Lancaster, this manor was seized by the Yorkists, and became the property of Richard, Duke of Gloucester; who, when he came to the crown, gave it to John, Duke of Norfolk, who fell at Bosworth-field. Being again in the crown, it was given by King Edward VI. with the park, market, fairs, &c. to the Duke of Somerset^r; after whose attainder it was granted, with all the above ap-

ⁱ Vide p. 162.^k Pat. 25 Edw. I.^l Pat. 6 John.^m Heath's Chronicle.ⁿ Clarendon.^o See Pat. 6 John, and Dugdale's Baronage.^p Pat. 25 Edw. I.^q Esch. 27 Hen. VI.^r Pat. 2 Edw. VI.

purtenances,

purtenances, (the park excepted,) to the townsmen of Hungerford; the constable, who is chosen annually, being, by virtue of his office, lord of the manor. In a large chest, with three locks, is preserved an ancient bugle horn, said to have been given by John of Gaunt, when he granted the above-mentioned right of fishery. It is of brass, about 18 inches in length: on one side is the following mutilated termination of an inscription in black letter:—*actel*; on the other side, the word *Hungerford*. In the town-hall is another horn of brass, of more modern date, of the same size and shape, which is blown annually on the second Tuesday after Easter, at the Hocktide court, to call the tenants of the manor together. It has the following inscription, in the common Roman letter, with the date 1634, and the name of Jehosophat Lucas, as constable: “John a Gaun did give and grant the riall fishing to Hungerford towne, from Eldren Stub to Irish Stil, excepting fom several mil pound.”

Hungerford park, having been reserved by the crown as above-mentioned, was granted with all manerial rights within its limits, in 1595, to the trustees of Robert, Earl of Essex. In the following century it belonged to the family of Boyland. In 1707 it came to the Stonhouses, who were also proprietors of Standen-Hussey, in this parish: they sold it in 1765 to Mr. Renou, and it was afterwards successively in the possession of Mr. Waters and Charles Dalbiac esq. The present proprietor, John Willes esq. purchased it of Mr. Dalbiac in 1796. There was no house in Hungerford park when granted to the Earl of Essex; but it is not improbable that he was the builder of an ancient mansion, pulled down by Mr. Dalbiac, at the east end of which were the arms of Queen Elizabeth: a large and lofty room over the servants-hall, was called Queen Elizabeth's room. Mr. Dalbiac built a modern house on the site, leaving the old offices, which have been since pulled down and rebuilt by Mr. Willes.

The ancient family of Hungerford derived their name and origin from this town, where it is probable that they had their residence, and possessed property at a very early period. Sir Robert de Hungerford, the first person of note of this family, mentioned by Dugdale, who died about the year 1354, was buried in Hungerford church, where is an inscription to his memory^{*} in French, promising 550 days pardon, on the word of fourteen bishops, to all such as should pray for his soul. Sir Thomas Hungerford, nephew of this Robert, was the first speaker of the House of Commons; his son, Walter, was Lord High Treasurer to King Henry VI. and received summons to parliament as a baron. The elder branch of the family became extinct in Thomas Lord Hungerford, whose daughter carried the baronies of Hungerford, Bottreaux, Moels, and Molins, into the noble family of Hastings. Walter

^{*} From the information of Mr. Willes.

^{*} Printed by Dugdale and Ashmole.

Hungerford, descended from a younger son of Robert Lord Hungerford, who was beheaded at Newcastle in 1463, was created Baron Hungerford, of Heytesbury, by King Henry VIII. in 1536. The title became extinct by his attainder in 1540; but his estates were afterwards restored to the family, who had seats at Farley Castle in Somersetshire, Black-Bourton in Oxfordshire, Down-Amney, and Winrush, in Gloucestershire, Cadenham in Wilts, &c. Some of the family remained at Hungerford. Henry Hungerford esq. who died in 1673, was of Standen. John Hungerford esq. who died in 1729, was possessed of a manor in this parish, called the manor of Hungerford-Ingleford, which, it is probable, his ancestors had enjoyed at a very early period; for although the lands of this family had been more than once forfeited in turbulent times, yet the greater part of them were, in each instance, restored after the lapse of a few years. This John Hungerford, who died without issue, was descended from the Hungerfords of Down-Amney. He was a frequent speaker in parliament, where he represented the borough of Scarborough, and was standing counsel for the East India Company. He directed by his will, that his estates should be sold, and bequeathed two thirds of his residuary property to the provost and scholars of King's College, in Cambridge. The Hungerfords of Farley became extinct in the direct line in the person of Sir Edward Hungerford, who having sold the Farley estate, died in 1711, at the great age of 115, his son and grand-son dying before him without issue. John Peach Hungerford esq. now of Dingley-hall in Northamptonshire, near Market-Harborough, some time one of the representatives in parliament for the county of Leicester, is lineally descended from the Hungerfords of Down-Amney. This gentleman retains possession of the family vaults in Farley Castle and Salisbury Cathedral.

The manor of Standen Hufley, in the Wiltshire part of this parish, was formerly in the family of Hufe or Huffle. At a later period it belonged to Sir Reginald Bray, prime minister to King Henry VII. and was bequeathed by him to William Lord Sandys, who married the only child of his brother John. In 1583, it was purchased of his descendant of the same name, by Thomas Goddard esq. In 1719 the Goddard family sold it to Francis Stonehouse esq. whose representative, Mrs. Pearse, is the present proprietor. The free chapel of South-Standen, within this manor, has long ago been desecrated, and converted into a pigeon-house. Standen-Hufley house is the property and residence of Thomas Michel esq. who married one of Mrs. Pearse's daughters.

The manor of North-Standen has been long annexed to the Littlecot estate, and is now the property of Brigadier-General Leyborne. There are no remains of the chapel at North-Standen.

The manors of Hudden or Hidden, and of Eddington in this parish, were given to the priory of St. Frideswide in Oxford, by Edmund, Earl of Lancaster¹: after the reformation, they were granted, together with that of Newtown, to the family of James, who forfeited them in the reign of Queen Mary for their attachment to the protestant religion². They were re-granted by Queen Elizabeth, and are now the property of Sir Walter James James bart. His elder brother, who died without issue, took the name of James on succeeding to these and other estates of the late John James esq. the last heir male of that family.

In the parish church are several memorials for the family of Hungerford, and for the Stonehouses of Standen. The inscriptions in memory of Sir Edward Hungerford, K. B. 1629, and his wife Margaret, printed in Ashmole's Collections, have been removed. In the porch is the figure of an armed knight, which, it is probable, belonged to the tomb of Sir Robert Hungerford. There were two chantries in Hungerford church, one of which was founded by this Sir Robert³. The chantry-roll in the Augmentation Office, mentions the chapel of St. John the Baptist at Hungerford, and the chapels of North and South-Standen. It is probable, that the chapel of St. John the Baptist belonged to an hospital of that name, which existed at Hungerford, as early as the year 1281. It was endowed with lands, and the oblations on the feast of St. John the Baptist. The prior or warden was to celebrate divine service thrice in a week, and to relieve the poor inhabitants in times of scarcity. The Duke of Lancaster was patron⁴. No information can be obtained concerning the site of this hospital. The great tithes of this parish, which are supposed to have been parcel of the estates of the priory of Okeburn⁵, are now appropriated to the dean and chapter of Windsor, who are patrons of the vicarage. Hungerford lies within the deanery of Newbury, but is in the peculiar jurisdiction of the dean of Salisbury.

Dr. Samuel Chandler, a very eminent writer among the protestant dissenters, was born at Hungerford in 1693⁶.

John Hamblen gave 4l. *per annum* to this parish, to endow a charity-school. Dr. Edward Sheaffe, vicar of the parish, gave the school-house in 1636. About 12l. *per annum* is appropriated to the benefit of that school, out of a benefaction given by Mrs. Elizabeth Cummins, to the poor of this parish, and that of Breedon in Leicestershire. The number of boys to be educated in the school, is at the discretion of the minister and church-wardens.

¹ See Pat. 6 Edw. III.

² From the information of Sir W. J. James.

³ Dugdale's Baronage.

⁴ Tanner's Notit. Monast. new Edition.

⁵ See the Taxation of Pope Nicholas. John, Duke of Bedford, who possessed, by grant, the priory of Okeburn, had the rectory of Hungerford. See Esch. 14 Hen. VI.

⁶ Biograph. Brit.

HURLEY, in the hundred of Barnerfh, and deanery of Reading, lies five miles from Maidenhead, and four from Henley on Thames, near the Oxford-road. Geoffrey de Magnaville, ancestor of the Magnavilles or Mandevilles, Earls of Essex, founded a Benedictine monastery at this place in the reign of William the Conqueror, and endowed it with the manor of Hurley and other lands^b. It was afterwards made a cell to Westminster abbey. In 1535, its revenues were valued at 121l. 8s. 5d. *per annum*. The site, called Lady-place (the convent having been dedicated to the Virgin Mary), was granted, in 1545, to Leonard Chamberlayne^c, and, not long afterwards, came, together with the manor of Hurley, into the possession of John Lovelace esq. who died in 1558^d. His grandson, Sir Richard Lovelace, "knighted in the wars," as his epitaph expresses it, went on an expedition with Sir Francis Drake; and it is said, he built the present mansion with the money he gained in that adventure. Richard Lovelace, his son, was created Baron Lovelace of Hurley, in 1627. The title became extinct at the death of Neville Lord Lovelace, in 1736. John, Lord Lovelace, is said to have been very instrumental in bringing about the Revolution. He was captain of the band of gentlemen pensioners to King William. His great prodigality and splendid style of living involved him in such difficulties, that he was obliged to sell a great part of his estates, under a decree of chancery, to pay his debts. Hurley is said to have been purchased by an attorney, on behalf of himself and his clients^e. The manor was purchased for the family of Greeve; was afterwards the Duke of Marlborough's^f, and is now the property of Lord Viscount Ashbrook, in right of his lady, who was heiress of the late Thomas Walker esq. of Woodstock. Lady-Place, with some lands in Hurley, were bought by Mrs. Williams, sister of Dr. Wilcocks, bishop of Rochester, who had the singular good fortune (though she possessed only two tickets) of gaining, a prize of 500l. and another of 20,000l. in the same lottery. The daughter and heir of Mrs. Williams married Dr. Lewin, chancellor of Rochester, who, in her right, possessed this estate. After Mrs. Lewin's death, it passed to the late Joseph Wilcocks esq. for life; and, after his decease, to the present proprietor, Gustavus Adolphus Kempenfelt esq.^g.

Lady-Place, the seat of Mr. Kempenfelt, was built about the year 1600, by Sir Richard Lovelace; it was fitted up with great splendour by John, Lord Lovelace, in the reign of King William. The hall and stair-case are very magnificent. On the principal story is a large saloon, the ceiling of which is enriched with

^b Dugdale. ^c Tanner. ^d The inscription on his tomb is printed in Ashmole's Berkshire.
It is not now to be seen at Hurley. ^e Magna Britan. ^f Gough's Additions to Camden.

^g From the information of Mr. Kempenfelt.

paintings of figures; the pannels are ornamented with landscapes^b. In the parlour is a portrait of the unfortunate Admiral Kempenfelt (brother of the present owner of Lady-Place), who was lost in the Royal George. Under the hall is a vault, in which, according to tradition, secret meetings were held for promoting the revolution, in 1688; and it is further said, that King William visiting Lord Lovelace at Hurley, after his establishment on the throne, was taken by his host to see this vault. These traditionary anecdotes are related on a tablet, placed at the end of the vault by the late Mr. Wilcocks. He has recorded also a visit of General Paoli to this vault, in 1780, and of his present Majesty, in 1785.

The stables belonging to Mr. Kempenfelt's mansion were the refectory of the convent, the windows of which are still remaining. The chapel of the convent, now the parish church, stands on the opposite side of a quadrangle. It was dedicated by Osmund, bishop of London, in the year 1086. The round arches at the west end, with zig-zag ornaments, are, it is most probable, part of the original structure. In the church is a brass plate, in memory of John Doyley esq. with the date 1492, in Arabic numerals, and some monuments of the Lovelace family.

The great tithes, which were appropriated to the convent, are now the property of Lord Ashbrook, who is patron of the vicarage.

Sir Richard Lovelace, who died in 1639, gave an augmentation of 6l. 13s. 4d. *per annum* to the vicarage, on condition, that the vicar should reside on his benefice, preach there every other Sunday at the least, and pray for his heirs, whoever they should be. He directed also, that 10 quarters of clean well-winnowed rye should be given annually, in equal proportions, to ten poor persons, natives of Hurley, being either aged or burdened with large families.

Hall-Place in this parish, the seat of Sir William East bart. belonged, in the 17th century, to the family of Alford. Henry Alford esq. died in 1645, at his manor-house of Hall-Place^c. Sir William East was created a baronet in 1766; his father purchased Hall-Place about the year 1730.

HURST, in the hundred of Sunning, lies about six miles east of Reading, and about four miles nearly north of Wokingham. This parish consists of four liberties,

^b It has often been asserted that these landscapes were from the pencil of Salvator Rosa, and that the pannels were sent over to Italy to be painted by him. They are about 50 in number, coarsely painted in a free style, and the lights heightened with gold; but do not bear the least resemblance to the works of the great master to whom they have been ascribed; nor does the execution of them seem superior to that of numberless landscapes, to be seen painted on pannels, in houses fitted up about the same time; and besides, not only the pannels round this room, but also the soffits of the large bay windows which are of stucco, are decorated in a similar manner, and evidently by the same hand.

^c Langley's History of the hundred of Desborough, p. 198.

Whitley, Winnerth, Newland, and Hinton, or Broad-Hinton. The last-mentioned district of the parish is in an insulated part of Wiltshire. The church is in Berkshire. Each liberty has its own overseers, and other officers.

The manor of Hurst, including the liberties of Whitley and Hinton, belonged to the abbot and convent of Abingdon, having been given to that monastery by King Edgar^k. In 1539, it was granted to Richard Ward, and Anne his wife, from whose descendants it passed, by marriage, to the Harrisons. The late Mr. Dalby, whose family were the next possessors, sold it, about the year 1785, to Richard Aldworth Neville esq. now Lord Braybrooke. Hurst-House, formerly the residence of the lords of the manor, was built by Sir Edward Ward, cofferer to Queen Elizabeth^l, and was afterwards the seat of Sir Richard Harrison, whose monument is in the parish church. It has been alienated from the manor, and is now the property and residence of Mrs. Woven.

The manor of Syndlesham, or Sinsham, near Loddon bridge, which was anciently in the Westwolds^m, has been of late years in the Spencer family, and was not long ago purchased of Earl Spencer by Edward Golding esq. of Maiden-Earley, M. P.

The liberties of Winnerth and Newland are within the manor of Sunning, which was purchased, in 1795, of Sir Thomas Rich bart. by the present proprietor, Richard Palmer esq. of Holme-Park, in the parish of Sunning.

Haines-Hill, in this parish, was the seat of Sir Thomas Windebank, clerk of the signet, and the birth-place of his son, Sir Francis Windebank, secretary of state to King Charles I.ⁿ It was the property and residence of the late Mrs. Colleton^o, relict of John Edward Colleton esq. Henry Fairfax esq. grandson of Thomas Viscount Fairfax, had a seat on the Wiltshire side of the parish, inherited from the Barkers. It is now the property of Mr. Palmer, and in the occupation of Colonel Knox. Bill-Hill, in this parish, has been many years in the family of Gower^p. It was lately occupied by the Marquis of Blandford, and is now the residence of the proprietor, Col. Leveson Gower.

In the parish church are some handsome monuments, particularly those of Margaret Lady Savile, wife of the learned and munificent Sir Henry Savile, warden of Merton College, in Oxford, and founder of the Savilian Professorships in that University, who died in 1631, and that of Sir Richard Harrison, who twice raised a troop of horse at his own charge, for the service of King Charles I. and died in

^k Placit. &c. de terris in Turr. Lond. Com. Berks. No. 31.

Mr. Crofts, the minister of Hurst.

^m Esch. Rich. II.

ⁿ Ant. Wood.

since the list of seats in p. 185, was printed.

^o She died

^p It belonged to John Lord Gower, afterwards

Marquis of Stafford, in 1746. Simpson's English Traveller.

1683. The figures of Sir Richard Harrison and his lady are executed with much spirit, in white marble, by Stanton. Sir Richard is represented in armour, kneeling on one knee: his lady reclines, with one arm, on a stool, and in the other holds a broken cord. In the south aisle of the chancel is a handsome monument, with the effigies of the deceased in robes, to the memory of Henry Barker esq. who died in 1651. There are several other monuments for the families of Ward (grantees of the manor), Harrison, Barker, Fairfax, Hyde, and Palmer.

Hurst is situated within the deanery of Reading, but is subject to the jurisdiction of the dean of Salisbury, who is patron of the perpetual curacy, and has the impropriation both of great and small tithes, which are held for a lease on lives, by Richard Palmer esq. of Sunning, whose family have been in possession of the lease for several years.

William Barker esq. who died in 1685, founded an hospital in this parish, for eight poor persons, to whom he gave a weekly allowance of 3s. 6d. each, and a gown every other year.

Twyford, within the limits of the liberties of Whitley and Hinton, is an hamlet of Hurst, situated on the great road from London to Bath, where a skirmish was fought between some of King James II's soldiers, and a party of the Prince of Orange's, in 1688⁹. It lies about two miles and a half from Hurst Church: about a third of the houses are in Wiltshire; the rest in Berkshire. The Norris family had an estate here, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, called the manor of *Twyford*[†], subordinate perhaps to that of Hurst; it has not been traced to a later period: Lord Braybrooke's is the only manor now known. Mr. Edward Polehampton, who died in 1721, built a chapel of ease at *Twyford*, and founded a charity-school, for the education of ten boys, with a dwelling-house for the master. He made the vicars of St. Sepulchre's, in London, and St. Mary's, in Reading, and the minister of Hurst, perpetual trustees, and directed that 10l. *per annum* should be allowed for clothing: 40l. *per annum*, and the house, for his residence, with the liberty to take boarders, to the minister, provided he would undertake the care of the school; but, in case of his refusal, 10l. *per annum* to be deducted from his salary, and given to a schoolmaster, who should have the use of the house. Lady Frances Winchcombe founded an hospital at *Twyford*, in 1640, for six poor persons, who have an allowance of 1s. 6d. a-week each, and a coat, or gown, once in two years.

There are two annual fairs at *Twyford*, July 26, and October 11.

⁹ Magna Britannia.

[†] Esch. Eliz.

EAST-ILSLEY or MARKET-ILSLEY, anciently HULDESLEY, or HILDESLEY, in the hundred of Compton, is a small market town, about nine miles from Newbury, on the road to Oxford, and 53 miles distant from London. The market is on Wednesdays. There are two fairs, March 26th and August 26: the last is a large sheep fair. The sheep-downs in the neighbourhood are very extensive. The manor was anciently in the baronial family of Somery, and held under them by the De la Poyles¹. Urias Babington died seized of it in 1605². Soon afterwards it came to the Moores³, who were of this place and Fawley. Sir Francis Moore, the lawyer, father of the first baronet of that family, was born at East-Ilsley. The manor was devised, in 1803, by the late John Head esq. in whose family it had been for a considerable time, to Robert Southby esq. of Appleton. Mr. Head bequeathed the manor of Ashridge, in this parish, to Mr. John Wasey, of Newbury, since deceased. In the church is a single memorial, with the date 1606, of the ancient family of Hildesley, or Hilsey, who took their name from this town, and are now extinct. They are said to have been some time proprietors of a manor, in one of the Ilsleys. Bishop Hilsey, who succeeded Dr. Fisher in the see of Rochester, was of this family⁴. Brackley Kennet esq. late alderman of London, was patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Newbury: the patronage is still in the Kennet family. Richard Wightwick, joint founder of Pembroke College, in Oxford, was rector of East-Ilsley⁵.

At Kates-Gore, in this parish, were large stables, built by William Duke of Cumberland, for his running horses⁶.

WEST-ILSLEY, in the hundred of Compton, lies about a mile and a half to the north-west of East or Market-Ilsley. In the 14th century the manor was in the family of Penley⁷: at a later period, in the Ramseys: it is now the property of William Baker esq.

The manor of Hodcot, the feat and property of John Head esq. lately deceased, was purchased by his grand-father in 1662, of Mr. Southby, of Abingdon; it had been before in the families of Keate⁸ and Stamp⁹, and at a more remote period in the Somerys¹⁰. It is now, by the bequest of Mr. Head, the property of his cousin, Robert Southby esq. of Appleton.

In the parish church are several memorials of the Heads of Hodcot. The dean and chapter of Windfor are patrons of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Newbury. The learned Mark Antonio de Dominis, archbishop of Spalatro, was

¹ Esch. Edw. I. and Edw. II.

² Esch. Jac. I.

³ Esch. Car. I.

⁴ Ant. Wood.

⁵ Magna Britannia. ⁶ Rocque's Map. ⁷ Esch. Edw. III.

⁸ See an epitaph in Hagbourn church.

⁹ Esch. Eliz.

¹⁰ Esch. Edw. I. and Edw. II.

presented to this rectory by King James I^e. Calybutte Downing, a celebrated divine, in the reign of King Charles I. and King Charles II. was some time rector of this parish, which he quitted on being instituted to the vicarage of Hackney, in Middlesex^f.

There are two extensive breweries in this village, the beer of which has acquired considerable celebrity.

INKPEN, in the hundred of Kentbury-Eagle, lies nearly four miles to the south-east of Hungerford. The manor was held, at an early period, under the baronial family of Somery, by the Inkpens, who took their name from the village^g. It was afterwards in the families of Fitchet^h and Keryellⁱ, and is now the property of the Earl of Craven, whose ancestors became possessed of it nearly two centuries ago.

The manor of West-cote, or West-court, in this parish, was formerly in the family of Hill^k. For many years it was held jointly by the noble families of Spencer and Craven. Lord Spencer's share was, not long ago, sold to Mr. Durnford, of Inkpen, who has since disposed of most of the lands which were included in his purchase.

The abbot and convent of Titchfield had a considerable estate in this parish, given them by Geffry le Mansell and Peter Suckemond^l.

In the parish church is the monument of a crusader, and a cenotaph in memory of Captain Thomas Butler, who was lost on board the Scarborough, in the dreadful hurricane in the West Indies, in 1780. He was going to take possession of the Diamond frigate, of which he had been appointed Captain by Sir Peter Parker. The patronage of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Newbury, has been many years in the family of the present incumbent, the Rev. Mr. Butler, brother to Capt. Butler, above mentioned. An annual payment was settled on the rector, in lieu of tithes, by an act of parliament, passed in 1747.

KENTBURY, anciently CHENETBERIE and KENNETBURY, about three miles south-east of Hungerford, derives its name from the river Kennet, on the banks of which it is situated. It had formerly a market on Fridays, and two fairs; one on the festival of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary, and the other on that of St. Simon and Jude, granted in the year 1268, to the nuns of Shaftsbury^m; but it does not appear on record, that they ever possessed any property in this parish. This village gives name to the hundred in which it is situated.

^g Granger's Biographical History.

^f Ant. Wood.

^h Esch. Edw. I. and II.

^h Esch. Rich. II.

ⁱ Esch. Edw. IV.

^k Esch. Hen. V.

^l Dugdale's Monasticon.

^m Cart. 52 Hen. III.

The manor of Kentbury-Ambresbury belonged to the nuns of Ambresbury, having been given to them, at the first foundation of their monastery, by Queen Elfridaⁿ. In 1542, it was granted to John Cheyne: not long afterwards it came to the Darrells, from whom it passed, in marriage, about the year 1670, with the daughter and heir of Sir John Darrell, to Sir John Elwes, who sold it to Philip Jemmet esq. alderman of London. Alderman Jemmet's daughter brought it in marriage to Sir Jonathan Raymond. It is now, in right of his wife, the property of Charles Dundas esq. one of the knights of the shire, who resides on this estate, at his seat called Barton-Court. Mrs. Dundas's grand-father, Thomas Whitley esq. of Aston-Hall, in Flintshire, married Anne, daughter of Thomas Loder esq. of Baldon Park, in this parish, by his wife Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Sir Jonathan Raymond above mentioned. The hamlets of *Clapton* and *Elcot* are within this manor.

The manor of Kentbury-Holt was given to the nuns of Eaton, in Warwickshire, by their founder, Robert Bossu, Earl of Leicester^o. It is now the property of Lord Craven, in whose family it has been nearly two centuries.

The manor of Ballefdon, Baldon, or Balston, in this parish, was anciently in the family of Polhampton^p; at a later period, in the Darrells^q. The Loders were of Baldon Park, in 1667^r. It is now the property of John Mackanefs esq. by a late purchase from Cuthbert Johnson esq. to whose wife it was, a few years ago, bequeathed by — Dixon esq.

The manor house, which is surrounded by a moat, is now occupied as a farm. Mr. Mackanefs purchased also, at the same time, the manors of Tidcomb and Wallingtons, which had been bequeathed also, by Mr. Dixon, to Mrs. Johnson. The manor of Tidcomb had, in ancient times, been successively in the families of Hertrugge^s, Burton^t, Romaine^u, and Long^x. The capital mansion on this estate, called Wallingtons, is occupied by A. F. Nugnes esq. The manor of *Anville*, in this parish, is the property of Sir Francis Burdett bart. who inherited it from the family of Jones, of Ramsbury. It is probable, that it has passed with the adjoining manor of Avington, which belongs also to Sir Francis Burdett.

The manors of High and Low Denford, in this parish, were formerly the property of the Longespees, earls of Salisbury^y, and afterwards of the Lords Lovell and Holland^z. They came to the crown by the attainder of Francis Lord Lovell, in

ⁿ See the Domesday Survey.

^o Dugdale.

^p Esch. Edw. I. and Edw. III.

^q See Esch. Edw. IV.—Esch. Hen. VIII. &c.

^r Berkshire Pedigrees.

^s Esch. Edw. I.

and Edw. II.

^t Esch. Rich. II.

^u Esch. Hen. V. and Hen. VI.

^x Esch. Rich. III.

^y See Esch. 6 Edw. III.

^z Esch. Hen. IV.—Edw. IV.

1487, and were granted by King Henry VIII. to the ancestors of the late John James esq. from whom they devolved to the present proprietor, Sir Walter James James bart. whose elder brother took the name of James, by act of parliament, on succeeding to this and other estates of the late Mr. James.

In the parish church are the monuments of Sir William Darrell, of Littlecote, who died in 1588, and his nephew, Sir John Darrell bart. of West-Woodhay, who died in 1625, and several of the families of Jemmet, Raymond, and Shaw. That of Sir Jemmet Raymond, who died at the age of 93, was executed by Scheemaker, and has busts of the deceased and his son.

The great tithes of this parish, which were appropriated to the monastery of Ambresbury, are now the property of Mr. Dundas, who is patron of the vicarage. Kentbury is in the deanery of Newbury.

The tithing of Elcot, in this parish, was inclosed by act of parliament in 1779: the lands were not exonerated from tithes. Besides the above-mentioned hamlets, to which manors are annexed, Clapton, Englewood, and Wormstall, are in this parish.

KINGSTON-BAGPUIS, or BAGPUZE, in the hundred of Ock, lies on the road from London to Cirencester, six miles from Abingdon, and eight from Faringdon. The manor was, at an early period, in the baronial family of Somery^a. A part of this estate seems to have been subdivided, and to have formed two distinct manors, which, from the families by whom they were afterwards possessed^b, acquired the names of Kingston-Ferrars and Kingston-Longueville. A third manor, retaining the name of Kingston-Bagpuze, was several years in the family of Kingston^c. John Latton, whose family settled at Upton, in the parish of Blewbury, about the year 1325, removed to Chilton, in the reign of Henry VII. and having afterwards, in the year 1542, purchased the manors of Kingston-Bagpuze, Kingston-Ferrars, and Kingston-Longueville, settled in this parish^d, where his descendants continued to reside till about the year 1670, when they sold their estates at Kingston, and removed to Esher, in Surrey^e. The manors became afterwards the property of the Fettiplaces, from whom they passed, by marriage, to the Blandys. They are now, under the will of the late Mr. Blandy, vested in the trustees of Mr. Adam Blandy, (late Walker,) a minor. The editor of Ashmole's Collections describes several coats of arms and quarterings of the Lattons, which were in the hall of the manor-house. It is probable, that these are the same which are now in a room, called the Star-

^a Esch. Edw. I. and Edw. II.
Esch. Hen. VI.

^b See Dugdale's Baronage, under the family of Ferrars, and
Esch. Edw. IV.—Hen. VIII.

^d Ashmole's Berkshire, vol. III. ^e Ibid.

Chamber, at Strawberry-Hill. Lord Orford's catalogue says, that they belonged to the Lattons, of Elther, whom he speaks of as extinct. The present manor-house is a modern brick mansion. The parish church has been lately re-built: it is a small neat structure. A few monuments of the Fettiplaces and Blandys, which were in the old church, have been carefully preserved.

The president and scholars of St. John's College are patrons of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Abingdon.

In this parish is New Bridge, over the Thames, where two annual fairs are held, March 31 and September 28. At this bridge the parliamentary army were repulsed, on their attempt to pass it, the 27th of May, 1644^f. On the 2d of June following, Waller passed this bridge with his army, without opposition^g.

LAMBOURN is an ancient market town, seven miles from Hungerford, and 46 from London. The market has existed from a very remote period: it is called Cheping-Lambourn, in a charter of 1227, when a fair, at the festival of St. Matthew, was granted to the Fitzwarrens^h. The charter for a market was renewed in the reign of Henry VI. and two fairs granted at the festivals of St. Philip and James, and St. Clement, to the dean and chapter of St. Paul'sⁱ. The market, which is held on Fridays, has, of late years, much declined. There are now three fairs; the 12th of May, the 4th of October, and 4th of December. In the market-place is a cross, consisting of a tall plain shaft, with an ornamented capital, on an ascent of steps.

The parish of Lambourn is very extensive, comprising the whole of the hundred to which it gives name. The number of inhabitants in the town, and its hamlets, according to the returns made to parliament in 1801, was 2045. No historical event occurs relating to Lambourn, except that King Charles was there with his army, soon after the second battle of Newbury, in 1644^k.

The manor of Lambourn was given by King Alfred to his wife Ealhswith^l, daughter of Ethelred, Earl of Mercia, who survived him four years, and died in 904. In the reign of Edward the Confessor, and at the time of taking the Norman Survey, it was part of the royal demesnes. In 1361, Sir Thomas Grandison, in whose family it had been for some time, conveyed the manor of Cheping-Lambourn to Sir John Pecche^m. Not long afterwards it came to the crown. This manor, and the manor of Upper-Lambourn, which had been given by King Henry III. to

^f Walker's Discourses, p. 16. ^g Ibid. ^h Cart. 11 Hen. III. ⁱ Cart. 21 and 24 Hen. VI.

^k Clarendon. ^l Alfred's Will, printed at Oxford in 1788, from the MS. in the possession of the late Thomas Astle esq. ^m Cl. 43 Edw. III.

Henry de Bathe, grand justiciar of Englandⁿ, and passed from his family, by a female heir, to the Bohuns; were granted by King Henry VIII. in 1543, to Sir William Essex and his son Thomas. In 1609, an act of parliament passed to enable their descendant, then in possession, to sell his estates in Lambourn, for the payment of his debts: not long afterwards these manors became the property of Sir William Craven, ancestor of the present proprietor, the Earl of Craven.

The manor of Estbury, in this parish, was, at an early period, in the family of Fitzwarren. Anne, Duchess of Exeter, heiress of the Fitzwarrens, and relict of Sir Richard Hankeford, died seised of it in 1458^o. Her only daughter and heiress, by her first husband, brought the title of Fitzwarren and this estate to the Bouchiers. The manor of Estbury is now the property of Sir Francis Burdett bart. by inheritance from the family of Jones, of Ramsbury. Another manor in this hamlet was successively in the families of Wanting^p and Estbury^q. The priory of Wallingford had a manor also in Estbury^r.

The manor of Bockhampton, in this parish, was anciently in the families of De Bathe^s and Teyes^t, who had also the manor of Blagrave in this parish. The manor of Bockhampton was held by grand serjeanty, by the service of keeping a pack of harriers for the royal hunt at the king's charge^u. This manor, of which Margaret Countess of Shrewsbury died seised in 1468^x, is now the property of Lord Holland. It was not long ago in the family of Garrard, who had possessed it many years.

William Hobbeshort held an estate in this parish, by the serjeanty of carrying the king's horn, when he came to hunt within the hundred of Lambourn^y. Blount, in his *Ancient Tenures*, says, that the same lands were holden by the service, "*custodiendi domino regi sex meretrices, ad custum domini regis*."^z

The

ⁿ Cart. Antiq. in Turr. Lond.

^o Esch. Hen. VI.

^p Esch. Edw. III.

^q Esch. Edw. III.—Hen. IV.

^r Esch. Rich. II.

^s Esch. Hen. III.—Edw. I.

^t Esch. Edw. I.—Edw. III.

^u Blount's *Tenures*.

^x Esch. Edw. IV.

^y Esch. 32 Edw. I.

^z Mr. Manning, in his *History of Surrey*, has brought forward several instances where lands were holden by similar tenures, and different words have, in subsequent records, been substituted for *Meretrices*, as *Puellas*, *Communes faminas*, and *lotrices*, on which he grounds an ingenious and plausible argument that these *meretrices* were no other than ordinary women servants, to be provided by the several lords of the manors holding by such tenures, when the court was in their neighbourhood. There is a decisive authority, however, on the other side, which will not admit of the word being taken in any but its literal sense: it appears that one of the duties of the marshal, as given by Sir Henry Spelman (see his *Glossary in verbo Marechal*) from the *Liber Ruber Scaccarii*, was to provide "*douze damoiselles a la Court le Roy, qui devoient faire seirement a son Bachelier, qu'elles ne sauroient aultres putains a la Court*"

The manor of Bernes, in this parish, was in 1631 the property of John Stephens, who inherited it from the Organs². No further account of it could be obtained, nor could it be found on inquiry, that any estate in the parish is now known by this name.

The parish church of Lambourn is a very handsome and spacious Gothic structure, in the form of a cross. On the south side are two chantry chapels, one of which, dedicated to St. Mary, was founded by John Estbury or Isbury, who died in 1372; the other dedicated to the Holy Trinity, by his descendant of the same name, who died in 1485, as appears by the epitaphs on their tombs. In the centre of the southern chapel is an altar tomb, on which is the effigies of the founder, John Isbury, who died in 1485, in copper, habited in a furcoat, with his arms enamelled. John Isbury, son, it is probable, of the last-mentioned John, founded an alms-house or hospital near the church-yard at Lambourn, for ten poor men. This hospital was liable to be dissolved at the reformation, on account of superstitious usages, but was continued by an act of parliament, passed in the 31st year of Queen Elizabeth, under which a new set of regulations was ordained by the archbishop of Canterbury, and other commissioners appointed for that purpose. In 1589 it was determined that Francis Alford esq. (supposed to have been the representative of the founder) and his heirs, and the warden of New College in Oxford, should have the appointment of the poor men; and that the said Francis Alford, his heirs and assigns, should have the management of the estates. In 1619, Henry Alford of Wokingham conveyed the supervisorship of this hospital to Richard Organ, whose sister and heir married the ancestor of the Rev. John Hippeley, of Stow in Gloucestershire, now joint supervisor with the warden of New College. The will of the founder speaks of one of the chapels as built by himself; perhaps he rebuilt it: the epitaph of his father and of John Estbury, who died in 1372, afford evident proof that the two chapels were originally built by them. In the southern chapel are some memorials of the family of Hippeley. The alms-men attend divine service every morning in this chapel, kneeling round the tomb of their founder's father, which is surrounded with a frame, desk, and cushions for that purpose. A copy of the prayer that is now used, hangs up in the chapel: it is probable that it was composed by the commissioners under Queen Elizabeth's act, or altered by them so as to adapt it to the reformed religion. The original pension of the alms-men was 8d. a-week each; they now receive three shillings a-week, besides a guinea at Christmas,

Court qu'elles mesmes, ne Ribaudes sans avowverie de assre; ne laron ne mesel quelles ne les monstrent au Maresscal; et il doit pourveoir la Court de tout."

The author of *Fleta*, treating of the office of marshal in time of peace, Book 2. c. 5. says, that he was to keep the virge of the court free "*à meretricibus communibus*," who were subjected to severe punishments if taken within the palace. *Fleta*, Edit. 1647, p. 71. ² Esch. Car. I.

and

and three loads of wood each: the reserved rents of 74 bushels and a half of wheat, and 51 bushels and a half of malt, are divided among them; they have great coats every other year, and are entitled to some other small payments in money^a. In the north transept of Lambourn church is the monument of Sir Thomas Effex, who died in 1558, with the effigies of himself and Margaret his lady in alabaster. There are some memorials also in this church for the family of Garrard, who were settled at Bockhampton in this parish for nearly two centuries, and for the Seymours of Inholmes, who have resided there nearly as long. The arms on their monument are the same as those of the Somerset family. On the monument of Edward Seymour esq. who died in 1798, are some verses by Mr. Pye, the Poet Laureat. His son of the same name, a minor, is the present proprietor of the family seat. The Garrards are extinct in the male line; their representatives, by female descent, are John Blagrove esq. of Calcot, and Thomas Goodlake esq.

The great tithes of this parish, which from an early period have been appropriated to the church of St. Paul, were held on lease for many years under the dean and chapter, by the Garrards. The lease is now vested in Edward Withers esq. of Newbury. The dean and chapter are patrons of the vicarage.

At *Upper-Lambourn*, a considerable hamlet or tithing in this parish, was formerly a free chapel, now destroyed. It belonged to the dean and chapter of Westminster, who surrendered it to the crown in 1544. According to the returns made to parliament in 1801, there were 346 inhabitants in Upper-Lambourn, 398 in Eastbury and Bockhampton, and 337 in *Blagrove*, another hamlet or tithing. Eastbury and Blagrove have been inclosed, by an act of parliament passed in 1776, when an allotment of ten acres was assigned to the poor, in lieu of furze. Bockhampton was inclosed by an act passed in 1778; Upper-Lambourn by an act passed in 1802. The lands were not exonerated from tithes by either act. In 1803, an act of parliament passed for inclosing Chipping-Lambourn and King's-heath, in the tithing of Blagrove: under this act, an allotment of land in lieu of tithes was made to the vicar.

LANGFORD, about three miles distant from Lechlade in Gloucestershire, is situated partly in Berkshire, although detached from that county. The village stands partly in Berkshire and partly in Oxfordshire. The editor of Ashmole's Collections says, that the two counties divide the church and church-yard.

King Henry II. gave the church of Langford, and lands which had been the property of Robert bishop of Salisbury, to the church of St. Mary at Lincoln. These lands, consisting of the manor and rectory of Langford, now form the estates

^a From the information of Mr. Hippsley.

of two prebends in that church; they are both leased on lives. The lease of the manor was for some time in severalties in the families of Broderwick, Cockerill and Pye; it now belongs to Mr. Thomas Myers, of Langford, who purchased it of the representatives of the late Mr. Dyneley. The lease of the rectory, which is also held for lives, is now vested in the executors of the late Rev. Mr. Stevens. The advowson of the vicarage, held on a sub-lease under the rectorial lessee, is now vested in the present vicar, Mr. Johnson. The vicar receives institution from the bishop of Oxford, in whose diocese the parish is situated, but the ecclesiastical jurisdiction is vested in the prebendary of the rectory. In the parish church are some memorials for the family of Broderwick.

King John, in the year 1204, gave his lands in Langford to the abbot and convent of Beaulieu; they were situated at *Little-Faringdon*, a hamlet of this parish, lying wholly in Berkshire, which perhaps did not acquire its present name till after the above-mentioned donation. It is probable that Faringdon church and this chapel were both built by the abbot and convent of Beaulieu, and by the same architect, the style being similar; from this circumstance might have arisen the name of the hamlet, after the chapel was built. The manor of Little-Faringdon is now the property of James Musgrave esq. who inherited it from the Perrots of Barnesley in Gloucestershire. This hamlet has been inclosed, under an act of parliament passed in 1788, when an allotment of land was assigned to the prebendary of Langford, in lieu of great tithes, and a corn-rent to the vicar. *Grafton*, another hamlet of this parish, is wholly in Oxfordshire.

LETCOMBE-BASSET, in the hundred of Kentbury-Eagle, lies three miles to the south-west of Wantage. It was so called from the Bassets, who were proprietors of the manor in the 13th century^b, having inherited it from Robert d'Oilly, to whom it was given by the Conqueror. At a later period it was in the Harpedens^c, and afterwards in the Fettiplaces. William Fettiplace esq. in 1526, gave a moiety of this manor to the provost and scholars of Queen's College in Oxford, for the purpose of endowing a chantry, school, and alms-house, at Childrey. The president and scholars of Corpus-Christi College, Oxford, are patrons of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Abingdon. The parish of Letcombe-Basset has been inclosed, under an act of parliament, passed in 1772, when an allotment of land was assigned in lieu of tithes to the rector.

Dean Swift retired to the house of his friend Mr. Gery, the rector of this place, after his unsuccessful attempt to reconcile Lord Oxford and Lord Bolingbroke, in

^b Fin. Rot. Hen. III.

^c Esch. Hen. VI.

the month of June 1714, and, during three months residence here, wrote his pamphlet, entitled, "Free Thoughts on the present State of Affairs^d;" it was not then published, on account of Queen Anne's death, which happened whilst he remained at Letcombe, but was printed in 1741.

LETCOMBE-REGIS, in the hundred of Kentbury-Eagle, lies two miles to the south-west of Wantage; it was so called, as having been parcel of the ancient demesnes of the crown. The manor of Letcombe-Regis continued in the royal family till after the death of Richard Earl of Cornwall, King of the Romans, brother of King Henry III. in 1246^e. It was afterwards in the Lifles^f. A large portion of this parish, rated in Pope Nicholas's *valor* at 46l. *per annum*, was given, by some of its royal owners, to the alien monastery of Clugny, in Burgundy, and became a separate manor, which was purchased of that convent in 1412, by William Porter esq.^g Both these manors were for a considerable time in the family of Fettiplace. The greater manor (probably the same which formerly belonged to the abbey of Clugny) was given by one of the Fettiplace family to Mr. Scroggs, of whose widow it was purchased by Bartholomew Price esq. Mr. Price's son sold it to the Rev. Mr. Craven, of whom it was purchased by the present proprietor, Exuperius Turner esq. The other manor passed from the Fettiplaces to the Sayers, of whom it was purchased by the father of Mr. Hughes, the present proprietor. The manor-house on this estate, which was encompassed with a moat, appeared, by the remains which existed within the memory of man, to have been a mansion of some consequence. Over the gate-way was a large apartment called the guard-room^h. The customary tradition, which attributes the origin of most ancient houses, whose early history is enveloped in obscurity, to King John, prevailed with respect to this old mansion.

In the east window of the parish church are the arms of Langley, of Kent, impaling Tame, of Fairford. Ashmole mentions the figures of John Mermyle, with a hunting horn, and his wife. Part of the inscription only now remains, with the arms of Mermyle, Or, a bat volant, vert.

The great tithes of Letcombe-Regis were appropriated to the nuns of Ambresbury, before the Conquest; they are now vested in the church of Winchester; the dean and chapter are patrons of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Abingdon. The township of Letcombe-Regis, with the hamlet of East-Challow, have been inclosed by an act of parliament passed in 1801; the lands were not exonerated from tithes.

^d Swift's Letters in the octavo edition of his works, 1784.
Rich. II.

^e Pat. 13 Hen. IV.

^f Esch. 30 Hen. III.

^g Esch.

^h From the information of the Rev. Mr. Batchelor.

The ancient entrenchment on the Downs, called Letcombe-castle, is in this parish.

West, or *Little-Challow*, and *East*, or *Great-Challow*, are both in this parish. The manor of West-Challow belonged, at a very early period, to the nuns of Ambresbury. It was granted, in 1542, to Sir Thomas Seymour, passed soon afterwards to the Plotts, and had been for several generations in the Pigot family, when it was sold, about the year 1800, by the Rev. Mr. Pigot to Mr. Thomas Hatten, together with the impropriation. Petwick, a manor in this parish, belonged also to the nuns of Ambresbury, and has since passed through the same hands. There is a chapel of ease at West-Challow, in which are some memorials of the Pigots; divine service is performed in this chapel only once a month. The lord of the manor appoints the minister, and has a burial place for his family in the chapel; the rest of the inhabitants are carried to Letcombe-Regis for interment. The hamlet of West-Challow has been inclosed by an act of parliament passed in 1802, when an allotment of land was assigned to the impropriator in lieu of tithes.

East-Challow belonged anciently to the Achardsⁱ, from whom it descended by female heirs to the De la Mares and Forsters. Challow house was built by Mr. Bance, of whose executors it was purchased by Bartholomew Price esq. It is now the property and residence of Exuperius Turner esq. Near the mansion is a chapel of ease for the hamlet. The tithes of East-Challow belong to the family of Drummond.

EAST-LOCKINGE, in the hundred of Wanting, lies about two miles to the east of Wantage. The manor, which belonged to the abbot and convent of Abingdon, was for many years in the family of Keate, of whom it was purchased by the Wymondefolds, about the year 1720. It is now the property of J. P. Bastard esq. M. P. in right of his wife, who was widow of the late Mr. Wymondefold.

In the church are some memorials of the families of Keate and Wymondefold. East-Lockinge is in the deanery of Abingdon. The warden and scholars of All-Souls College, in Oxford, were patrons of the rectory till the year 1764, when it was annexed, by act of parliament, to the wardenship of that society. The manor of West-Ginge, in this parish, has passed with that of East-Lockinge, and is now the property of Mr. Bastard.

LONGWORTH, in the hundred of Ganfield, lies about eight miles north-west of Abingdon, and about seven miles north-east of Faringdon, to the north of the London road. There were formerly two manors in this parish, one belonging to

ⁱ Granted with Aldermaston.—Mr. Congreve's Papers.

the abbot and convent of Abingdon, called West-Longworth, the other a lay manor which was successively in the families of Befils and Fettiplace. The Fettiplaces surrendered it to the crown in 1538. The manor of Longworth with the advowson (including, probably, the estate which had belonged to the Fettiplaces), was granted in 1552, to Lord Clinton and Henry Herdson. It was afterwards in the families of Edmayne and Fyther^k. Sir Henry Marten, dean of the Arches, judge of the Prerogative Court, and of the High Court of Admiralty, who was esteemed the first civilian of his age, purchased this manor early in the 17th century. His ungodly son Harry, as Wood with great truth calls him, represented the county of Berks in the reign of King Charles I. where he distinguished himself by his zealous hatred of royalty, of which he gave the finishing proof by signing the death warrant of his sovereign. After the restoration, he was tried with the other regicides, and condemned; but his life was spared, his punishment being changed to perpetual imprisonment. This profligate man died in Chepstow-castle in 1680, having, long before his death, squandered the fortune which his father had, from a small beginning, acquired by his industry and talents, and alienated the manor of Longworth, and other estates which he inherited in this county^l. Longworth is now the property of the Rev. John Loder, in whose family it has been a considerable time.

In the parish church are some memorials for the family of Marten. The monument of Sir Henry Marten above-mentioned, who died in 1641, has been destroyed. The fragments of it remain in the north aisle. None of the brass plates mentioned in Ashmole's notes now remain, excepting those of Richard Yate esq. 1498, and Eleanor Godolphyn, 1566.

The principal and scholars of Jesus College, in Oxford, are patrons of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Abingdon. In the parish register is the following entry of the baptism of Bishop Fell, who, by some writers, is erroneously said to have been born at Sunningwell. "John, son of the right worshipful Samuel Fell, rector of Longworth, baptized July 16, 1625." On an opposite leaf is the following note: "This John Fell was dean of Christ-Church and lord bishop of Oxford: his father was dean of the same church. The son lies buried in Christ-Church cathedral."

At *Charney-Basset*, a considerable hamlet of this parish, nearly four miles south of Longworth, is a chapel of ease, of Saxon architecture. The manor of Charney, having been part of the possessions of the abbot and convent of Abingdon, was granted, in 1544, to Sir William Gorfyn. It is now the property of G. A. L. Keck esq. M. P.

^k Esch. Ph. and Mar.

^l Ant. Wood.

The ancient entrenchment called Cherbury camp is in an insulated part of this parish, furrounded by Hinton and Pusey.

The manor of *Southmsor*, a hamlet in the parish of Longworth, belongs to the president and scholars of St. John's College, in Oxford, having been given them by their founder, Sir Thomas White.

MARCHAM, in the hundred of Ock, lies between three and four miles to the west of Abingdon. The manor, which had belonged to the abbot and convent of Abingdon, was granted, in 1547, to William Box. In 1646 it was in the Pigot family, from whom it passed by purchase, in 1691, to Felix Calvert, and in 1717, to Robert Meggott, whose son John took the name of Elwes^m on succeeding to the large estates of Sir Harvey Elwes, in Suffolk. Marcham is now the property of his son George Elwes esq. The manor, or reputed manor, of Upwood, in this parish, is the property of Sir Charles Saxton bart.

In the parish church is the tomb of Sir Robert Corbet, who died in 1403 (with his effigies engraven on a brass plate); and the monument of Edward Fettiplace esq. 1540.

The great tithes which belonged to the abbot and convent of Abingdon are now vested in the dean and chapter of Christ-Church College, in Oxford, who are patrons of the vicarage. The lord of the manor has been for many years lessee of the tithes. The vicar has half the great tithes of *Frilford*, a hamlet of this parish, about a mile to the north-west of Marcham. The other half is held by Mr. Elwes under the college. The manor of Frilford, which was successively in the St. Elens, St. Amandsⁿ, and Golafres^o, is now vested in the president and scholars of St. John's College, in Oxford, to whom it was given by the founder. The president and scholars of Magdalen College have also a manor in this hamlet.

Garford, another hamlet, about two miles west of Marcham, has a chapel of ease. The manor, which was in the Golafres^p, now belongs to the Earl of Craven, in whose family it has been a considerable time. *Cotbill* or *Cotwell*, is also a hamlet of this parish.

MILTON, in the hundred of Ock, lies between three and four miles to the south of Abingdon. The manor, which had belonged to the abbot and convent of Abingdon, was granted, in 1547, to Lord Wriothesley; it passed soon afterwards into the family of Calton, who possessed it above 200 years. This manor is now the property of Mr. James Barrett, whose father purchased it about the year 1768 of

^m A life of Mr. Elwes, who resided at Marcham, and was noted for his great penuriousness and other singularities, was published by Edward Topham esq. " Esch. Edw. III. " Esch. Hen. VI. ^p Ibid.

the Caltons. In the manor-house is a chapel fitted up for the service of the Roman Catholic religion, the windows of which have been ornamented with ancient stained glass. The Rev. J. G. Warner, the lately deceased incumbent, was patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Abingdon. The free school in this parish was built and endowed in his life time by the munificence of Mr. Warner, at an expence of 2000*l*.

NORTH-MORETON, in the hundred of Moreton, lies about four miles west of Wallingford. Sir Miles Stapleton, the last heir male of a family who had possessed this manor during a long series of years^a, died seized of it in 1467^b, leaving two daughters co-heirs. Some time afterwards it became the property of Sir Ralph Sadler, who gave it to King Henry VIII. in 1547. The present proprietor is Robert Hucks esq. in whose family it has been a considerable time. The south aisle of the parish church is called Stapleton's Chantry. The nuns of Godstow had an estate in this parish^c. The rectory is annexed to the archdeaconry of Berks; the archdeacon is patron of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Abingdon.

SOUTH-MORETON, in the hundred of Moreton, lies about four miles nearly west of Wallingford. A manor in this parish called Hufes, belonged, at an early period^d, to the ancient family of Hufe, who continued to possess it till 1409^e, and perhaps later; it was afterwards in the Brays^f, from whom it took its modern name. The present proprietor is Mr. John Sadgrove, who inherited it from the family of Leaver. Mr. Sadgrove has also the manor of Sanderville, which belonged to a family of that name in the reign of Edward Ist. The manors of Adresham and *Fowlescote*, a hamlet in this parish, were in the family of Norris, and afterwards in the Braybrokes^g. Adresham belonged lately to the Tomlinsons, and is now the property of Mr. John Kirby. Fowlescote, now called Fullefcote, belonged for a considerable time to the family of James, of Denford, and is now the property of Sir W. James James bart. The advowson of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Abingdon, was, in 1754, vested by act of parliament in trustees for the use of the principal and scholars of Magdalen hall, Oxford, in exchange for an alternate right of presentation to the rectory of Finchampsted, given to that society by Dr. Palmer.

NEWBURY, a large market town in the hundred of Faircross, is situated on the banks of the Kennet, near the road from London to Bath, 56 miles from Hyde-

^a Esch. Edw. II. &c. ^b Esch. Edw. IV. ^c Pope Nicholas's *Valor*. ^d Cart.
^e 55 Hen. III. Esch. Edw. III. &c. ^f Esch. 10 Hen. IV. ^g Sir Reginald Bray's will.
^h Esch. Edw. I. ⁱ Esch. Hen. VII. and Eliz.

park corner. This town has been supposed to have acquired its name from having risen to consequence after the decay of Spene, a neighbouring village; which, according to the opinion of most antiquaries, was the Roman town of *Spinæ*. This conjecture seems to be so far erroneous, as it respects the origin of Newbury. It appears that, on the death of Thomas Earl of Perch in 1216, his heir, the bishop of Chalons, sold the manor of Newbury, which had been the property of his ancestor Ernulfus de Hefdin, to William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke^a. The only manor mentioned in the Domesday Survey as belonging to Ernulfus de Hefdin, is that of Uluritone, in the hundred of Tacheham (which hundred is now within the modern hundred of Faircross), and it appears to have been a *town*, for there were 51 *hagæ*, or houses, which paid a tax or quit rent to the lord. These *hagæ* are mentioned only in the description of towns; it must be observed, that no mention is made of any at Spene; at Thatcham, which was an ancient borough town, only 12, and at Reading only 29. It seems clear, therefore, that at the time of taking the Norman Survey, Spene was only a village; and Newbury a town of considerable consequence, then known by the Saxon name of Uluritone, perhaps a corruption of Ulwardetone from Ulward, who possessed it in the reign of King Edward the Confessor. *Newbury* was certainly the name of a castle built by the Earls of Perch, who founded the neighbouring monastery of Sandford, and it is probable that it was transferred to the town instead of its ancient Saxon name.

Our historians inform us that king Stephen won Newbury castle by assault in 1152^b. At a later period this town became the scene of two battles, in the memorable civil war between King Charles I. and his parliament; at both of which the king commanded in person, the Earl of Essex having the command of the parliamentary army. The first battle was fought on the 18th of September, 1643^c. The king was then in possession of the town, whither he had arrived with his whole army about two hours before the Earl of Essex, who had advanced from Hungerford, for the purpose of recovering the town from Prince Rupert. The Earl, finding Newbury pre-occupied by the King, stationed his army on Biggs hill, within a mile of the town, where they passed the night of the 17th. The next day the battle was fought with equal courage on both sides, and with such doubtful success that each party claimed the victory; for although the Earl left the royal army the next day in possession of the field of battle, yet he accomplished what he intended, which was to march with his own army to London. On the king's side fell the Earls of Carnarvon and Sunderland, and the accomplished Lord

^a Camden.^b Holinshed.^c Clarendon; Heath says the 20th.

Falkland. After the battle the king returned to Oxford. The royal army was stationed at Newbury for about a month, in the spring of 1644^d.

The second battle which was fought near this town happened on the 27th of October 1644; the king came to Newbury for the purpose of relieving Donnington Castle, and, having succeeded in his intention, was waiting for the return of the Earl of Northampton, who was gone with a detachment to the relief of Banbury, when the parliament having intelligence of the weak state of the royal army at Newbury, the Earl of Essex, Sir William Waller, and the Earl of Manchester, joined their forces, and being further reinforced by the trained bands from London, advanced towards the king, determined to bring him to an engagement as soon as possible. The king himself was quartered in the town, and had placed strong guards on the south; the greater part of his army were stationed in the village of Shaw, in Mr. Dolman's house, in a house between the village and Newbury, about which an earth-work was cast up, and in a mill on the Kennet, all which lay nearly east from the town. The horse and artillery were in two open fields to the north, and at Spene were Prince Maurice's foot. The parliamentary army lay towards Thatcham. Several skirmishes occurred during the two days before the general battle, which, although the king's force was so inferior, was fought with various success, principally between Spene and Newbury. The village of Spene was taken, during the contest, by the parliamentary army. Mr. Dolman's house at Shaw was attacked, but the besiegers were repulsed by its commander, Col. Page. No persons of great note fell in this battle. Each party again claimed the victory. On this occasion the parliamentary army were left in possession of the field; they marched into Newbury, and made breast-works and batteries to secure the town, which they resolved to keep. The king retired to Oxford, where, having been reinforced by the Earl of Northampton, he returned to Newbury, recovered his cannon which he had left on the field, relieved Donnington Castle, and supplied it with provisions in the face of the parliamentary army, who declined quitting their quarters at Newbury to give him battle. He then marched with his army to Lambourn^e. Sir Thomas Fairfax was quartered with the parliamentary army at Newbury, in April 1646. Heath speaks of tumults at Newbury in 1664, which were suppressed by Sir Thomas Dolman.

Newbury is a market town by prescription. The market, which is on Thursdays, is a great mart for corn. There are four annual fairs, Holy Thursday, July 5, September 4, and November 8, being the festivals of St. John the Baptist, St. Bartholomew, and St. Simon and St. Jude, Old Style: there is a large statute-fair also for hiring servants on the first Thursday after the 10th of October.

^d Clarendon.

^e Clarendon.

Newbury sent two members to parliament in the reign of Edward I. and in the reign of Edward III. three representatives to a great council at Westminster, being then a considerable trading town^f. It was formerly celebrated for its clothing manufacture, which though much declined, had not been wholly discontinued till of late years : there are now some cotton manufactories near the town. It does not appear that Newbury has decreased in population since the removal of the clothing manufacture ; indeed, the influx of trade in consequence of the ready communication which it now has by navigable canals with London and Bristol, has been such, that on the contrary it appears to have increased in population as well as in opulence. By a return made to cardinal Pole, in 1555, when the clothing trade was at its greatest height, it appears that the number of inhabitants was then 1600. Mr. Penrose, in his answer to the queries of Mr. Rowe Mores in 1759, calculates the houses at above 800 ; the inhabitants at 5000. Willis's map of the environs of Newbury, published in 1768, states the houses at 930, the inhabitants at 3732^g. Mr. Pearce, in his Agricultural Survey of Berkshire, in 1794, calculates the inhabitants at 5500. When the returns were made to parliament, under the population act in 1801, the number of houses was found to be 965, of which 931 were inhabited, the number of inhabitants 4275. It must be observed, that this does not include the tithing of Speenhamland, which adjoins to Newbury, and apparently part of that town, although it is within the parish of Spene. In this tithing were 147 houses and 712 inhabitants.

The town of Newbury was incorporated, in 1586, by Queen Elizabeth, who had honoured it with a visit in 1568^h, and, it is probable, at other times in her Berkshire progresses. The corporation consists of a mayor, high-steward, recorder, six aldermen, and 24 capital burgesses. The town is well built, and the streets spacious. The gaol and a town-hall, in which are held the Easter sessions, and other public meetings, are over the old market-house, an ancient timber building. Over the new market-house, a brick building of modern date, is an assembly-room, sometimes called the new town-hall, adjoining to which are some smaller apartments, where the private business of the corporation is transacted : their public meetings are held at the old town-hall.

The manor of Newbury was confirmed, in 1220, to William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, who had purchased it of the bishop of Chalons, as already mentioned. In the reign of Edward I. it appears to have been divided between the Mohuns and Mortimers, as coheirs of Sibella de Ferrars, who was herself one of the coheiresses

^f Brown Willis's Notitia Parliamentaria.
seems to be very much under-rated, being scarcely more than four to a house.

^g By this calculation the number of Inhabitants
^h Queen Eliza-

beth's Progresses.

of the Marshalls^l. Roger Mortimer, Earl of March, died seized of a moiety of this manor in 1360^k. In 1465, a third part of the manor of Newbury, with the fairs and market, which had belonged to Thomas Cornwall esq. was granted to Thomas Herbert, squire of the body to Edward IV^l. In 1495, the manor of Newbury was in jointure to the queen^m; it is now vested in the corporation, to whom it was granted by King Charles I. in the first year of his reign.

The parish church is a handsome structure, built in the reign of Henry VIII. principally, as it is said, at the charge of John Winchcombe, a wealthy clothier of this town, commonly known by the name of Jack of Newbury. This celebrated person, who died in the year 1519, lies buried in Newbury church, by the name of John Smallwode, alias Wynchcombe. The brass plate, with his effigies, which was formerly placed over his tomb, is now fixed against the east wall of the north aisle. It is probable that he had, in his life-time, been a benefactor towards the rebuilding the church, which being unfinished at his death, he bequeathed 40l. towards its completion, as appears by his will in the Prerogative office. This John Winchcombe, who was a very wealthy clothier, is said to have kept 100 looms at work in his own house, and to have marched, at the head of 100 of his workmen, "as well armed and better *clothed* than anyⁿ;" in the expedition against James of Scotland, which was terminated by the action of Flodden Field. It is said, also, that he had the honor of entertaining his monarch, and his queen, Catharine of Arragon, at his house at Newbury; but all the anecdotes relating to this celebrated person must be received with caution, as they seem, though related by Fuller, to have been taken from a small pamphlet, entitled, the Life of Jack of Newbury, which was evidently written many years after his death, and abounds with improbabilities and anachronisms. There is a modern edition of it, printed at Newbury. A picture, which hangs in a room over the new market-house, in which the corporation hold their private meetings, being a copy from the original at Bucklebury, is erroneously said to be the portrait of the celebrated Jack of Newbury; whereas it is, in fact, that of his son, John Smallwode, alias Winchcombe, who died in 1557, as appears by the parish register. The date which accompanies the portrait is 1550, and the person it represents is said to have been then 61 years of age. This picture has been copied for the sign of Jack of Newbury, at the inn of that name, which is said to stand on the site of John Winchcombe's dwelling-house. John Winchcombe, the son, became possessed of considerable landed property, chiefly by the grants of monastic estates. Henry Winchcombe, his descendant,

^l See Esch. 25 and 29 Edw. I.

^k Esch. 34 Edw. III.

^l Pat. 5 Edw. IV.

^m Parliament Rolls.

ⁿ Fuller's Worthies.

was created a baronet in 1671. The title became extinct at his death. The present representative of the family is Winchcombe Henry Howard Hartley, a minor, son of the late Henry Winchcombe Hartley esq. one of the representatives in parliament for the county.

The rectory of Newbury, which gives name to a deanery, is in the gift of the crown. William Twisse, a noted calvinistical writer, and prolocutor of the assembly of divines, who was a native of Speenhamland, was rector of Newbury. He afterwards exchanged this benefice for Newton-Longueville, in Buckinghamshire^o. There is a portrait of him in the vestry at Newbury.

St. Bartholomew's hospital, in this town, is said to have been founded by King John, who granted a fair at the festival of St. Bartholomew, for its support. It was formerly under the government of a master, warden, or prior^p. It is now, by the charter of Queen Elizabeth, vested in the corporation, who allow the pensioners (six men and six women) 3s. 6d. a week each; besides which they have coats and gowns once in two years, 13s. 4d. on St. Thomas's day; and 5s. each, arising from the tolls of the fair, which is held in an adjoining meadow, on St. Bartholomew's day. Each person has also yearly a waggon load of peat, and six scores of faggots. The chaplain has a salary of 12l. *per annum*, under the charter of Queen Elizabeth.

Opposite to St. Bartholomew's hospital is a set of alms-houses, founded by Sir Jemmet Raymond, in 1670, for six poor men, and the same number of women, who are allowed 3s. 6d. each weekly; gowns and coats every year, and the same quantity of wood and peat as the pensioners in St. Bartholomew's hospital. These alms-houses have been rebuilt out of the fund. Since the death of Jemmet Raymond esq. son of the founder, the vacancies in these alms-houses have been thus filled up; the corporation nominate two persons, out of whom the rector selects one.

Thomas Pearce, about the year 1671, endowed two alms-houses for poor weavers; Francis Coxhed, in 1690, two other alms-houses for poor men: these are consolidated, and under the direction of the Presbyterian dissenters. The pensioners receive 3s. 6d. a week each, firing, and great coats once in two years.

Mr. Thomas Hunt, in 1729, founded an alms-house for three poor widows, the preference to be given to his nearest of kin. They receive, under his will, 3s. a week each, 20s. for firing, and every other year 20s. for a gown. The surplus-money, arising from the estate left for this purpose, is applied to the teaching of

^o A. Wood.

^p Tanner.

poor children, of which the number is at present twenty-five; Mr. Kimber added 6s. a week to this fund.

Mr. Benjamin Robinson, in 1754, founded three alms-houses for poor weavers, and endowed them with 2s. per week each, and a waggon load of peat yearly; Mr. Kimber increased their allowance to 3s. 6d. a week: they are supplied with clothes according as the fund permits.

Near the old market-house are twelve alms-houses, built in 1795, pursuant to the will of John Kimber esq. already mentioned, at the expence of nearly 2000l. for six poor men, and the same number of women. They are remarkably neat and commodious; the allowance to each of the pensioners is 5s. per week, and fuel: they have clothes every other year.

Besides those already mentioned, there is an alms-house on St. Mary's-Hill, founded about the year 1656, by a benefactor now unknown, for six old maids, and endowed with a weekly allowance of 2s. 6d. to each, which, by Mr. Kimber's benefaction, is made up 3s. 6d. besides peat and faggots. There is another alms-house also, called the church alms-house, for six poor men, and six women, the founder and date of foundation of which are unknown. This alms-house, which was situated in the church-yard, having become ruinous, and there being no sufficient fund for rebuilding it, Sir Jemmet Raymond's old alms-house was purchased and repaired, for the reception of the pensioners belonging to it, who receive a weekly allowance from the fund of 2s. 6d. each, augmented to 3s. 6d. by Mr. Kimber, besides peat and faggots.

Mr. John Kendrick, of Reading, who died in 1624, gave the sum of 4000l. to provide a workhouse for the poor of this town, and to furnish them with employment. A great part of this benefaction appears to have been lost, as at Reading; with a part of it was purchased the wharf, and some other premises at Newbury, which produce a rent of 160l. *per annum*, at the disposal of the corporation: what remains is lent, without interest, in sums of fifty pounds, to weavers, for three years.

PADWORTH, in the hundred of Theale, lies about eight miles to the south-west of Reading. The manor was, at an early period, in the family of Coudray¹, who held it by the service of finding a sailer to manage the ropes of the Queen's vessel, whenever she should pass over into Normandy². The Coudrays continued to possess this manor in 1465³. About the year 1700 it passed, by marriage, from the Brightwells, in whose possession it had then been for a considerable time, to the

¹ Esch. Hen. III.

² Blount's Tenures.

³ Esch. Edw. IV.

Griffiths. After the death of the late Mrs. Griffith, relict of Christopher Griffith esq. who was one of the representatives in parliament for the county of Berks, it devolved to her sister's son, Matthew Chitty Darby esq. second son of the late Admiral Darby, who has taken the additional name of Griffith. Padworth-house, a handsome modern mansion, stands on an eminence, a little south of the Kennet, and forms a conspicuous object from the Bath road. It is now in the occupation of Edward Clarke esq.

Another manor, in this parish, was conveyed in 1399, by William Mulso, to William of Wickham, Bishop of Winchester¹.

The parish church, which is very small, exhibits a curious specimen of ancient architecture². The rectory of Padworth is in the deanery of Reading, and in the patronage of the crown.

PANGBOURN, in the hundred and deanery of Reading, is situated near the banks of the Thames, about six miles from Reading, on the road to Wallingford. The manor of Pangbourn was granted, in the fourth year of Edward the first, to Felicia Shortford, who had been nurse to the king's son³: in the year 1550, the same manor, then lately parcel of the possessions of the abbot and convent of Reading, was granted to John Dudley, Earl of Warwick, (afterwards Duke of Northumberland,) who was beheaded in 1553. Queen Mary granted this manor to Sir Francis Englefield, who, in the succeeding reign, lost this, and other considerable estates by attainder. Pangbourn was granted by Queen Elizabeth, in 1563, to Thomas Weldon, cofferer of her household, and his son; the latter, in 1613, sold it to Sir John Davis⁴. In 1671, John Breedon esq. purchased it of the representatives of the Davis family; it is now the property of the Rev. Dr. Symonds Breedon, who succeeded to this estate, on the death of John Breedon M. D. pursuant to the will of the Doctor's father, John Breedon esq. who died in 1776, and has since taken the name of Breedon, in addition to that of his own family.

Bere-Court, the seat of Dr. Breedon, was given by Bingham, Bishop of Salisbury, to the abbot and convent of Reading, in 1230⁵. This place became a summer residence of the abbots. It now retains very few traces of its ancient designation, excepting the arms of Hugh Faringdon, the last abbot, among some other stained glass in the windows of the hall. His figure, mentioned in Ashmole's Collections, has been removed, and the chapel pulled down. Since the Reformation, Bere-Court has passed with the manor of Pangbourn. Sir John Davis, above mentioned, who became possessed of it in 1613, had been a person of some note in the reign of

¹ Cl. 1 Rich. II.
Dr. Breedon.

² See p. 205.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Cart. 4 Edw. I.

⁵ From the information of

Queen Elizabeth. He was patronized by the Earl of Essex, and was by him employed in some expeditions, in which he gained considerable honour: at the taking of Cadiz he was created a knight banneret, and afterwards had the command of a successful expedition to the island of Terceres. When his patron, the Earl of Essex fell, he became so far involved in his fate, as to have sentence of death passed upon him as a traitor, but had the good fortune to obtain a respite, and in 1601 a free pardon. After his purchase of Bere-Court, he retired thither, and spent the remainder of his days in studious retirement. Camden speaks of him, as an excellent mathematician. He entered deeply also into the science of judicial astrology, then so much in fashion, and was a pupil of the celebrated Dr. Simon Forman^a. Sir John Davis died in 1625, and lies buried in Pangbourn church; where there is a monument to his memory, with his effigies in chalk. There is a monument also for the wife of his son, Sir John Davis the younger, who was sister of Sir John Suckling the poet, and others of her family. Anne, daughter and heir of Sir John Davis the younger, married Sir Thomas Lee, of Hartwell, in Bucks, the first baronet of that family. Bere-Court is pleasantly situated among hills, in a very retired spot, about a mile from Pangbourn. From a tower on one of the neighbouring eminences, is a fine view of the rich scenery with which this part of Berkshire abounds.

In the parish church, besides the monuments of the Davis family already mentioned, are some memorials for the families of Robinson and Breedon. The rectory of Pangbourn belonged, from a very early period, to the abbot and convent of Reading. Dr. Breedon is now patron and incumbent. A wooden bridge across the Thames, from Pangbourn, to Whitchurch in Oxfordshire, was built under the powers of an act of parliament, in 1792.

PEASEMORE or PEYSMER, in the hundred of Faircross, lies about eight miles to the north-west of Newbury, and about five miles to the south-west of Ilfley. The manor was anciently in the De la Beches^b, from whom it passed to the Langfords^c. It was afterwards the property of Thomas Chaucer esq. whose daughter, Alice, brought it in marriage to William De la Pole, Duke of Suffolk^d: from the De la Poles it passed by purchase to the family of Head^e, who, having sold the manor, retained a small farm, now the property of their descendant Sir W. J. James bart. Early in the seventeenth century, this manor was in the family of Lyford^f. William Lyford, born at Peyfmer, was a member of the assembly of divines, and a noted writer among the Puritans^g. In the early part of the last century, the manor

^a Ant. Wood.^b Esch. Edw. III.^c Esch. Ric. II.^d Esch. Hen. VI.^e From the information of Sir W. J. James.^f Esch. Car. I.^g Ant. Wood.

of Peyfmer was in the family of Coward, from whom it passed by marriage to the Shirleys. Mr. John Shirley bequeathed it, in 1776, to the late John Archer esq. of Welford, and it is now the property of his grandson, John Archer Houblon esq. The priory of Poghley had a manor in Peyfmer; a part of the parish is still called Priors-side.

The only remarkable inscription in the parish church, is that to the memory of Mr. William Coward, lord of the manor, who died in 1739. This gentleman, though unknown to fame for want of a poet or historian to speak his worth, seems to have equalled the more celebrated man of Rofs, in the rare art of doing much good with a small fortune. Possessing only an income of 110*l. per annum*, he built in his life-time, at his own expence, the tower of the parish church, gave the great bell and communion plate (amounting to near three years produce of his slender income), besides maintaining a hospitable table, and being eminently charitable to the poor^g. The Rev. Mr. Watts of Uffington is the present patron of the rectory; the reversion of the advowson, after his decease, is vested in Mr. Archer Houblon. Peyfmer is in the deanery of Newbury.

PURLEY, in the hundred of Theale, lies four miles north-west of Reading, near the road to Wallingford. The manor of Great-Purley was, for several generations, in the family of Carew^h, from whom it passed by female heirs to the Iwarbysⁱ and St. Johns^k. It was bought of the St. John family, by Sir Robert Mackreth, and afterwards passed, by two several purchases, to Mr. Martindale and the late Anthony Storer esq. who was about to build a new house on the estate, which has since been erected from designs of James Wyatt esq. pursuant to the directions in Mr. Storer's will, which appropriated a sum of money for that purpose. Purley-House and manor are now the property of the honourable Mrs. Storer, sister-in-law of the late proprietor. The reversion is vested in her son. A manor in Purley, which belonged to Reading Abbey, was granted, in 1550, to John Dudley, Earl of Warwick, and is supposed to have been since attached to the manor of Great Purley.

The manor of Little-Purley belonged in 1218 to the Cifrewafts^l, from whom it passed to the families of Malyns^m and Morrisⁿ. In the reign of Charles I. it was purchased by the family of Lybbe, from whom it descended to the present proprietor, Ph. Lybbe Powys esq. of Hardwick, on the opposite side of the Thames.

Purley-Hall, now the seat of the Rev. Dr. Wilder, was built by Mr. Hawes, one of the South-Sea directors in the memorable year 1720. It was purchased of

^g See his Epitaph. ^h Esch. Ric. II. Edw. IV.

Carew, who died in 1467, married Sir John Iwarby.

ⁱ One of the co-heiresses of Nicholas

Iwarby, married Sir John St. John, who died in 1512.

^k Jane, daughter and heir of Sir John

^l Cl. 2 Hen. III. and 30 Edw. I.

^m Esch. Ric. II.

ⁿ Esch. Edw. IV.—Eliz.

his family by the present proprietor, about the year 1778. It is situated in the three parishes of Purley, Sulham, and Whitchurch, which extends across the river from the Oxfordshire side.

In the parish church are memorials for the families of Hawes, of Purley-Hall, Hyde, and Liebenrood, a tablet in memory of Thomas Storer esq. with an inscription, written by his son, and another for the late Anthony Storer esq. In the east window is some stained glass, by Mr. Catton, of Purley. The rectory is in the deanery of Reading, and in the patronage of the crown.

PUSEY, in the hundred of Ganfield, lies about five miles east of Faringdon, to the south of the London road. The manor is said to have been granted to the family of Pussey by King Canute, and an ancient horn is still preserved, by which it is said to have been held. The tenure of lands by cornage, or the service of a horn, was by no means unfrequent; and the Pussey horn, as well as the family of Pussey, are of considerable antiquity; but it may be much doubted, whether they possessed the manor of Pussey till long after the time of Canute. When the Norman Survey was taken, there were two manors in Pussey; the principal manor, which belonged to Roger de Iveri, and a smaller one, which belonged to the foreign monastery of St. Peter *super Dinam*. The lay manor had, in the reign of Edward the Confessor, been the property of Aluric, a freeman. The first mention of the Pusseys to be found on record, is in the year 1316^o; but it appears by ancient deeds, in the possession of the present proprietor, that they had been settled at Pussey for six generations before Henry Pussey, who appears to have been then lord of a manor in this parish. The family became extinct, in the male line, in 1710, by the death of Charles Pussey esq. who bequeathed the manor to his nephew, John Allen esq. directing that he should take the name of Pussey, in addition to his own. In case of Mr. Allen's dying without issue, it was entailed on the issue male of his sisters and his nieces, the Allens, successively, who, upon their inheriting the estate, were to assume the name of Pussey. The sisters of Mr. Pussey being deceased without issue, the two sisters of Mr. Allen Pussey (he having died also without issue) joined in settling this estate on the Hon. Philip Bouverie, uncle by the half blood of the present Earl of Radnor, and nephew of Mr. Allen Pussey's lady, who was daughter of Sir William Bouverie bart. Mr. Bouverie has taken the name of Pussey, and has been many years in possession of the estate, which was given up to him in the life-time of Mrs. Jane Allen, the last survivor of the sisters, who died in 1789. Mr. Pussey has a handsome seat in this parish. In the reign of Henry VIII. the Fettiplace family had two estates in this parish, called the manor of Byshops,

* See the Nomina Villarum, No. 6281, Harl. MSS. Brit. Mus.

and the manor of Mauncel's-Court. One of these, it is probable, was the manor which belonged to the monastery of St. Peter *super Dinam*. Nothing can be learned of their subsequent history: it is supposed that they are now united to Mr. Pusey's estate.

Alice Paternoster, in the reign of Edward I. held lands in Pusey, by the service of saying a Paternoster five times a day, for the souls of the king's ancestors; and it appears that Richard Paternoster, on succeeding to an estate in this parish, instead of paying a sum of money as a *relief*, said the Lord's Prayer thrice before the Barons of the Exchequer, as John, his brother, had done^p.

The parish church was rebuilt at the expence of Mr. Allen Pusey. The memorials of the families of Dogget and Dunch, as recorded by Ashmole, are in the north transept, which is divided from the nave by an Ionic screen. In a similar transept, on the south side, is a very handsome monument by Scheemaker, in memory of John Allen Pusey esq. and his lady. Mrs. Allen Pusey, who died in 1742, was daughter of Sir William Bouverie bart. and sister of the first Lord Viscount Falkstone. The remarkable epitaph of William White, recorded by Ashmole, is now placed on the outside of the chancel. The Bishop of Salisbury is patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Abingdon. A corn-rent, in lieu of tithes, and of part of the glebe, was assigned to the rector by act of parliament, in 1753.

RADLEY, in the hundred of Hormer, lies three miles to the north-east of Abingdon. The manor, which had belonged to the abbot and convent of Abingdon, was purchased in 1575, by George Stonhouse esq. one of the clerks of the green-cloth to Queen Elizabeth. His eldest son was created a baronet in 1628. Sir George Stonhouse, his second son, having distinguished himself by his activity in the service of King Charles I. was obliged, by the parliamentary sequestrators, to pay a large sum, as a composition for his estates. The present baronet, Sir Thomas Stonhouse, is eldest son of the late Rev. Sir James Stonhouse bart. M. D. who died in 1795. The Radley estate, on the death of the Rev. Sir James Stonhouse, younger brother of Sir William Stonhouse bart. and cousin of the last mentioned Sir James, passed, in 1792, to his nephew, Capt. George Bowyer, who was created a baronet in 1794, for his services in the celebrated engagement with the French fleet, on the first of June that year. Sir George Bowyer was a younger brother of Sir William Bowyer bart. of Denham-Court, in Buckinghamshire, whose title also he inherited, upon his death without issue, in 1799. Sir George died, at his seat at Radley, December 9, 1800, being then admiral of the blue, and was succeeded

^p Blount's Tenures.

in title and estate by his son, now Sir George Bowyer, in whom both the baronetcies are vested.

In the parish church is a very handsome monument, with the effigies of the deceased in robes, in memory of Sir William Stonhouse, the first baronet of the family, who died in 1632, and his eldest son, Sir John, who survived his father only four months.

The great tithes, which were appropriated to the abbot and convent of Abingdon, are now vested in Sir George Bowyer. The benefice, which is in the deanery of Abingdon, is a donative in his patronage.

Sugworth, in this parish, was once a considerable hamlet, now depopulated: the manor, which belonged to the abbot and convent of Abingdon, is now Sir George Bowyer's. Part of the hamlet of *Kennington* is in this parish.

READING, an ancient and populous borough and market town, which gives name to a hundred, is situated on the road from London to Bath, 39 miles from Hyde-Park corner.

The first mention which occurs of Reading, in history, is in the year 871, at which time it is described as being a fortified town belonging to the Saxon kings, but then in possession of the Danes, who had thrown up an earth-work between the Thames and the Kennet^a. The Danes retreated thither, after their unsuccessful battle at Englefield, with Earl Ethelwolf, who was soon afterwards slain by them, in a sally from the town^r. After their defeat by King Alfred, at Ashdown, they returned again to Reading, where they remained unmolested till the following year. They then marched to London^s. In 1006, the town of Reading was burnt by its old enemies, the Danes; and a convent of nuns then existing, under the government of an abbess, was destroyed^t. King Henry I. in 1121, laid the foundation of a magnificent abbey on its site, which was completed in the year 1124. This great monastery, of which more particular mention will be hereafter made, was the usual residence of our kings, during their frequent visits to this town: after the reformation it became, for a time, one of their palaces. The founder, it may be presumed, was not an unfrequent guest at the abbey, which became the place of his sepulture. His funeral was attended by King Stephen^u, William, Earl of Warren, and four other earls. King Stephen was at Reading in 1140. The next year his opponent, the Empress Maud, was received there with distinguished honours^x.

^a Afferius. ^r Ibid. ^s Sax. Chron. ^t Sim. Dunelm. William of Malmesbury, and King Henry's Charter. ^u Holinshed. ^x See Coates's History of Reading, from which all the historical facts, and other particulars relating to the town, collected by him with much diligence, are taken, unless other authority is quoted.

Copied by permission of the Rev.^d Cha.^s Coates from the Plan prefixed to his History of that Town.



In 1153, Reading Castle, which had been held by King Stephen, was given up to Henry II. then duke of Normandy, pursuant to an agreement made before the walls of Wallingford^y. It is said that the castle was then wholly demolished. No traces of it remained, even in Leland's time, excepting in the name of a street^z.

King Henry II. was present in 1163, at a single combat, fought between Henry de Essex, hereditary standard-bearer to the king, and Robert de Montfort. Essex, who had been accused by his opponent, of cowardly abandoning the royal banner, upon a false rumour of the king's being slain, or taken in a battle with the Welsh, was vanquished, and left on the field as dead; but he recovered, and assumed the habit of religion in Reading abbey, his lands being forfeited to the crown. In 1164, the king was present at the dedication of the abbey church: he kept his Whitsuntide at Reading in 1175, and his Easter in 1177: in 1184, he was present at a convocation there, in which Baldwin was elected Archbishop of Canterbury. In 1185, he went thither to meet Heraclius, Patriarch of Jerusalem, and he was there again the following year. King Richard I. held a parliament at Reading, in 1191.

When the students of the university of Oxford were driven away from that place by the cruelty of King John's officers, many of them settled for a time at Reading, that they might pursue their studies unmolested^a. In 1212, the pope's legate held a council there, for the purpose of endeavouring to effect a reconciliation between King John and the exiled bishops. In 1213, the king met the legate and barons at Reading^b, and held a parliament: he was there again in 1214 and 1216. King Henry III. was at Reading in 1226: the next year he kept the festival of Christmas there: he was there again in 1238. In 1241, he held a parliament at Reading, when Richard, Earl of Cornwall, took a solemn leave, previously to his going to the holy-land^c. The king was at Reading in 1244, 1248, and 1259. In 1263, he held a parliament in the refectory of the abbey^d.

King Edward II. was at Reading in 1314, when his officers seized 23 quarters of oats, belonging to Nicholas At-Oke, of Stratfield-Mortimer, for the king's chickens, and as much litter as was valued at 13s. which he had provided for the reception of his landlord, the Bishop of St. David's. On a petition to parliament,

^y Holinshed. ^z There can be little doubt, but that the old county gaol, in Castle-Street, occupied the site of the castle; and that the lancet windows and round arches, discovered upon pulling down the building in 1798, were part of the original structure. Mr. Coates seems to give too much weight to Hearne's conjecture. See History of Reading, p. 145. ^a Holinshed.

^b Mat. Paris.

^c Kennet's Parochial Antiquities.

^d Willis's Notitia Parliamentaria.

satisfaction was ordered to be made to the owner, the officers having refused to pay either for the litter or corn: the oats were valued at 3*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.*

In 1346, a great tournament was held at Reading. In 1359, John of Gaunt was married in the abbey to Blanch Plantagenet, daughter of Henry, duke of Lancaster. In 1384, King Richard II. and his nobles, being assembled at Reading, together with the mayor and aldermen of London, John Northampton, late mayor of that city, was convicted before them of seditious practices, and sentenced to perpetual imprisonment. In 1389, a great council was held at Reading, at which the king and his barons were reconciled by John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaster. Parliaments were held at Reading in 1440 and 1451: the parliament was adjourned from Westminster to Reading in 1452, on account of the plague. King Edward IV's marriage with Elizabeth, Lady Grey, having been kept secret for several months, was first openly acknowledged at Reading in 1464, on which occasion she made her public appearance at the abbey, being conducted thither by the Duke of Gloucester, and the Earl of Warwick. In 1466, the parliament was again adjourned to Reading, on account of the plague.

King Henry VIII. was at Reading in 1509 and 1526, and his queen, Catharine of Arragon, in 1529; the king was there again in 1541, the dissolved abbey being then one of his own palaces. King Edward VI. was at Reading in 1552: it being his first visit to the town, the mayor and aldermen, who met his Majesty on his arrival at Coley-Crofs, presented him with two yoke of oxen, and the mayor rode before him, bare-headed, to the palace. Philip and Mary came to Reading in 1554, and were met by the corporation and principal inhabitants: the same ceremony, and the same present were repeated. Queen Elizabeth several times visited her palace at Reading; she was there in the years 1568, 1572, 1575, 1592, 1602, and in 1603, not long before her death: her Majesty had a pew in St. Lawrence's church. King James passed through Reading in 1612; his queen, Anne of Denmark, was there the following year.

Michaelmas term, in 1625, the first year of the reign of Charles I. was kept at Reading, on account of the plague then raging in London: the High Court of Chancery, the courts of King's-Bench and Common-Pleas, of Wards and Liveries, and the court of Requests, were held in the great hall, and other parts of Reading abbey, which was then going to decay: the court of Exchequer was in the town-hall, the court of Augmentations in the school-house. The lord-keeper lodged at Sir Edward Clark's; the lord-treasurer and attorney-general at the Friars, and most of the judges at the Bear Inn.

In the month of October, 1642, Reading was one of the parliamentary garrisons, and is described as being well fortified, but wanting ordnance: upon the approach of a party of the king's horse, on the first of the following month, Harry Marten, the governor, quitted the town, and fled with his garrison. On the fourth, King Charles came himself to Reading, whence he advanced towards London; after the battle of Brentford, he returned thither on the 19th: after ten days stay at Reading, he marched to Oxford, having appointed Sir Arthur Aston governor, with a garrison of 2000 foot, and a regiment of horse.

On the 25th of April, 1643, the Earl of Essex marched from Windsor to the siege of Reading; the earl took his post at a knight's house, about a mile from the town, on the south-west, (supposed to have been Sir John Blagrave's, at South-cote), and began to batter one of the outworks of the garrison, at a place called Harrison's barn, on the Newbury side of the town: the chief management of the siege was entrusted to General Skippon: the parliamentary army made entrenchments towards the Oxford road. The king had a fortified post at Maple-Durham, and another at Caversham, on the Oxfordshire side of the river, both of which were taken by the besiegers; from Caversham, which commanded the town, they beat down a steeple, supposed to be that of St. Giles, where the garrison had placed some ordnance. Within a week after the commencement of the siege, Sir Arthur Aston, the governor, was wounded on the head by a tile, and so far incapacitated that the management of the garrison devolved on the lieutenant-governor, Colonel Fielding, who, on the 25th, hung out a flag for a parley. The town capitulated on the 27th; and it was agreed, that a post should be opened on the Newbury side, for the lord-general to march into the town: had the garrison held out a day longer, it would have been relieved, for the king was then at hand, with his army; but the accounts of both parties agree, that the treaty for capitulation had begun before the king's approach was known. Col. Fielding was tried for the surrender, and condemned to lose his head, but was afterwards pardoned: Lord Clarendon declares it as his opinion, that there was no proof against him, either of cowardice, or of treasonable correspondence with the enemy; but he never recovered the imputation, or was entrusted with any command. With respect to the practicability of defence, the accounts differ widely; Lord Clarendon says, that the fortifications were too mean to endure a regular siege: the parliamentary writers represent the town as strongly fortified, particularly Vicars, who says that people wondered at its surrender; the trenches about the town being so deep and wide, the works so substantially made, the palisadoes round them so firmly fixed, that it was thought 5000 men could scarcely have taken it by storm. The chief forts were placed to guard the principal approaches to the town; one at the Forbery, another at the end of

Pangbourn-lane, and a third at Harrifon's-barn, near the road to Newbury. The only remains of fortifications now to be seen are the high rampart, forming a horn-work, which ends at Forbery-hill, and some earth-works near the end of Castle-Street, supposed to be the site of what was called "the invincible fort, at Harrifon's-barn."

The accounts of the loss on each side, during the siege, differ much: the besiegers are said to have lost only 40 men: the loss of the garrison is variously reported: the parish register of St. Giles's and St. Mary's being defective at that period, the real loss cannot well be ascertained: at St. Lawrence's nine soldiers only were buried. During the siege, a servant of Sir Lewis Dyve swam across the Thames, backwards and forwards, to give intelligence to the garrison, but was taken on his return. Sir Samuel Luke, the Hudibras of Butler, was in the parliamentary army, and wrote a journal of the siege^f. The Earl of Essex continued at Reading till the 26th of May, when he went for some days to Lord Craven's house at Caversham, then in possession of the parliament.

After the first battle of Newbury, which happened in the month of September that year, Essex marched to Reading, where he halted two days with his army, and then quitted the town to the king's forces, upon which it was again made a royal garrison, 3000 foot and 500 horse being left for its defence, under the command of Sir Jacob Astley; who, for his good conduct as governor there, was created Baron Astley, of Reading. On the 16th of May, 1644, the king marched with his army to Reading, and made Coley-house, the seat of the Vachells, his head-quarters for three days. During this short stay, he caused the works to be demolished: he then evacuated the town, and it was taken possession of by the Earl of Essex, who immediately sent some troops thither for that purpose.

The Earl of Manchester was at Reading with his army Sept. 8, 1644. On the 15th of the next month, Cromwell came thither with his regiment of horse. On the 17th the Earl of Manchester marched from Reading to Aldermaston. On the 23d of November some of the parliamentary army took up their quarters in the town, but they seem to have had no regular garrison there. On the 24th of December, Major Crauford marched from Reading, with 4000 horse and foot, and took a supply of provisions to Abingdon. General Skippon was at Reading with his army, May 17th, 1645. In the month of January, 1646, Reading was garrisoned for the parliament; on the 19th orders were issued for martial law. In the month of April following, Barkstead, the regicide, was governor of the garrison. The parliamentary army under the command of Sir Thomas Fairfax, had their head-quarters at Reading, July 3, 1647. Reading having been so long a garrison town,

^f Printed in Coates's History of Reading.

and so frequently the head-quarters of one of the contending parties, the inhabitants were almost ruined by the heavy contributions, to which they were from time to time subject.

When Charles II. and his queen passed through Reading, in 1663, the corporation presented his Majesty with 50 pieces of gold, the queen with 30; the fees to their servants amounted to 37l. 6s. In 1687, James II. passed through the town on his road to Salisbury. In 1688, a skirmish happened at Reading, in which fell the only officer of the Prince of Orange's army, who lost his life in the expedition, which effected the happy revolution of that year. King James's army, consisting of some Irish and Scotch regiments, had been quartered at Reading, and had quitted it on hearing that the Prince of Orange was advancing with the main body of his army. The inhabitants, immediately on their departure, invited the prince to take possession of the town, and secure them from the Irish, of which nation the king's army was then chiefly composed, and of whom they, in common with the rest of the kingdom, seemed to have entertained a great dread. The king's army having received intelligence, that it was only a detachment from the Prince of Orange, that had advanced to Newbury, returned to Reading, and posted some Irish dragoons to defend the bridge; the Scotch were drawn up in the market-place, when the Prince of Orange's troops entered the town, a slight skirmish ensued, and a few lives were lost, but the king's troops soon fled with precipitation, and left the town in possession of their opponents*. This affair became the subject of a ballad, called the "Reading-Skirmish, or the bloody Irish, routed by the victorious Dutch." The anniversary of the Reading fight is still commemorated by bell-ringing in the three parishes. In the year 1700, Queen Anne making her first progress through the town, was met by the corporation in state, and presented with 40 broad pieces of gold in a new purse.

It has been already cursorily mentioned, that King Henry I. founded Reading Abbey in 1121, and that the building was completed in 1124. The great church was built several years afterwards, and was consecrated by Archbishop Becket in 1164. The abbey was dedicated to the Holy Trinity, the Virgin Mary and St. John the Evangelist. The monks were of the Benedictine order, and their number is said to have been originally 200, but it does not appear that they exceeded half that number at any subsequent period. Reading was made one of the mitred abbeys, and endowed by the founder, with the town and manor of Reading, and all the lands which had formerly belonged to the monasteries of Reading, Cholfey, and Leominster, then some time since destroyed; he gave them also the privilege of having a mint and mint-master at Reading. Ample donations were bestowed on

* Kennet's History.

the convent by succeeding monarchs and other benefactors, till it became one of the richest monasteries in the kingdom. Its revenues, at the time of the dissolution, were estimated at 1938l. 13s. 3½d. clear yearly income, which according to the present value of money, is at least 20,000l. *per annum*. As a proof of the splendor of its establishment, it appears that in Abbot Quapode's time, about the year 1305, when great economy was thought necessary to be adopted, on account of the monastery being then in debt, and a reduction of their household was resolved on, 37 servants were retained.

It has been already mentioned, that several parliaments were held in this abbey, in the great hall or refectory, as it is supposed. Two ecclesiastical councils were held here also, one appointed by Cardinal Pandulph, in the reign of King John, for settling the differences between him and the exiled bishops, the other by Archbishop Peckham, in 1279. At this council, several ecclesiastical statutes were ordained, and some particular constitutions made for supporting the privileges of the university of Oxford.

The founder, King Henry I. and his second Queen Adeliza, were buried in the conventual church at Reading, where also were interred, some of the younger branches of the house of Plantagenet. The coffin of the royal founder was supposed to have been discovered in digging the foundation of the present house of correction, in 1785, but Mr. Coates, in his History of Reading, gives good reasons why it could not have contained the remains of that monarch. In the year 1397, when King Richard II. granted the monks a confirmation of their liberties and privileges, he made it the condition of their charter, that they should within one year from that time, handsomely repair the tomb and statue of their founder^h.

Reading Abbey was dissolved in 1539. Hugh Cook, alias Faringdon, although reported by Dr. London, one of the commissioners, to have been as conformable as any man in the kingdom, and though it is said that he had expressed sentiments which would not lead one to suppose that he would have been very obstinate in refusing to acknowledge the king's supremacy, yet it is certain, that he either did so, or committed some other act, which was then deemed treasonable, for on the fourteenth of November, in the same year that the abbey was surrendered, he was hanged, drawn, and quartered, at Reading, with two of his monks.

After the reformation, Reading Abbey was kept by the king in his own hands, and committed to the care of Thomas Vachell esq. In 1550, King Edward VI. granted it to the Duke of Somerset. Queen Mary, in the first year of her reign, appointed Sir Francis Englefield, keeper of the abbey, manor, park, &c. and the same year granted the site of the abbey to Sir Henry Jerningham, master of her

^h Pat. 21 Ric. II. p. 3.

household. Queen Elizabeth kept the abbey in her own hands. King James I. settled it on his queen, and appointed a keeper of the house, with a salary of 20*l.* *per annum*, and a keeper of the stables, with a salary of 12*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* It was at this time, that Camden, speaking of Reading, says "this monastery is now turned into a palace, with a fine range of stables adjoining, furnished with excellent horses for the king's use." It may be supposed that the abbot's stables were not contemptible, for among the servants retained for the monastery, upon the reduced establishment in Abbot Quapode's time, appears a master of the horse, the abbot's huntsman, his palfrey-keeper, and a page under him. After the death of Anne of Denmark, King James's Queen, Reading was settled on Charles I. then Prince of Wales, and about this time it ceased to be a Royal residence. It may be observed, that when King Charles occasionally visited Reading, during the civil war, he took up his quarters at Caversham, Coley-house, or some other mansion in the neighbourhood. It may be supposed, that the repairs of the abbey having been for some time neglected, it was not then fit for his accommodation, indeed it is said that the buildings were much decayed at the time that the courts of law were held there in 1625.

The materials of such parts of this princely structure, as were not wanted for the accommodation of the court, began to be carried away piece-meal very soon after the reformation. In 1550, the timber-work of the ceiling of the conventual church, and 21 loads of other timber, were purchased by the inhabitants of St. Mary's parish, who were then rebuilding their church. Queen Elizabeth's charter gives the corporation liberty to dig and carry away 200 loads of free-stone from the ruins of the abbey. During the civil war, what remained of the abbey church was still further dilapidated; the ruins of the north transept were then blown up.

The Knollys family resided in the Abbey-House during the civil war. Sir Francis Knollys and his son were burgesses for Reading, in the parliament of 1642. The son died that year at Reading, whilst the Earl of Essex was in possession of the town. Capt. Symonds, who was at Reading in 1644, described the dining room at the Abbey-House, as having the arms and initials of Queen Elizabeth, for whose reception it is probable it was fitted up. When the parliamentaryⁱ survey was taken in 1650, the Abbey-House was in the occupation of Richard Knollys esq. The survey describes it, as consisting of a hall, parlour, and dining-room, ten chambers, a garret, with a large gallery, and other small rooms; by which it appears to have been more suitable for the residence of a private family, than that of a court. The great hall of the monastery is described as then remaining "with a very large cellar under the said hall, arched," the ruins of an old large chapel are

ⁱ Now in the Augmentation Office.

described also, and of a kitchen and other rooms, all fit to be destroyed, and the materials are valued at 200l. It is probable that the greater part of these buildings were soon afterwards taken down. The crypt only of the great hall now remains. In a garden, now occupied by Mrs. Bellafyfe, are the walls of a large room, 72 feet by 38, which Sir Henry Englefield supposes to have been the refectory, the arches in the upper part of the walls, which are circular, have escaped the general havock which has been made of the materials of this magnificent structure, and are the only remaining specimens of the original style of the building.

Sir H. Englefield, speaking of the present appearance of the ruins, justly observes that, "stript by destroyers of more than ordinary patience and industry, of almost every stone which cased the walls, they still, though built only of small flints, defy the injuries of time and weather, and have more the appearance of rocks than the work of human hands." Some of the stones were removed not many years ago, to the feat of the late Marshal Conway, who used them, in building a bridge over the road from Henley to Wargrave. The abbey mills remain nearly entire, and exhibit several small circular arches, which appear to be coeval with the foundation of the monastery. The gate-way of the abbey, leading to the Forbury, is not of very ancient date.

The site of Reading Abbey was granted, in 1661, to Sir Thomas Clarges, who sold it to John Dalby and Anthony Blagrove. Mr. Dalby's share was purchased of that family, by the late Henry Vansittart esq. who was unfortunately lost in the *Aurora* frigate, and is now the property of his grandson, a minor. The other share is still in the Blagrove family.

It appears by a record of the reign of King John, bearing date 1205, that there was then a nunnery at Reading, but nothing is certainly known, either of its foundation, its abolition, or its site. It appears by the record, that it was under the government of a prioress. It has been supposed, that it stood where St. Mary's Church now is. William of Malmesbury, as quoted by Dugdale, says that the ancient abbey, which had been destroyed many years before the reign of Henry I. was originally a house of nuns.

The Friars-Minors, Franciscan, or Grey-Friars, having obtained the papal authority, and a royal licence, settled themselves at Reading, in 1233, much against the will of the abbot*. He permitted them, nevertheless to build their convent on a piece of waste ground, leading to Caversham-bridge, which being in a marshy situation, and subject to floods, it was, with much sollicitation, that he was prevailed on, in 1285, to grant them a new site nearer the town, at the west-end of what is

* See the Chronicle of Dunstable.

now called Friar-Street; both grants were upon very hard terms, for they were not allowed to acquire any property, or solicit any donations, but might accept what was gratuitously bestowed on them. The building of the convent went on slowly, as may be supposed from the poverty of its inhabitants. Robert de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, in 1306 gave them 56 oaks, out of his wood of Ashridge, in Windsor forest. It is probable that this was for the roof of the conventual church. The building was not completed in 1311, for Alan de Banbury, who died that year, left a benefaction of five shillings towards it.

The house of the Grey-Friars in Reading was surrendered to King Henry VIII. in 1539. The warden petitioned that he and his brethren, being aged men, might be permitted to occupy their lodgings during life; but his suit was rejected, and the house granted in 1540 to Robert Stanshaw, one of the gentlemen of the privy chamber, from whom it passed to the Vachells: it is now the property of John Haycock esq. The corporation of Reading were more fortunate in their application for the conventual church, which they wanted for a town-hall; it was granted them for that purpose in 1543. Having obtained the present town-hall, by Queen Elizabeth's charter, in 1560, the church of the grey-friars was converted into a hospital or work-house, and afterwards, in 1613, into a house of correction. It was let many years for that purpose, before the building of the new gaol and bridewell, at the rent of 20*l. per annum*, to the justices of the county. The south transept now serves as a house of correction for the town. The walls of the church are still entire: the roof of the nave, which is divided from two narrow aisles by clustered columns and pointed arches, remained in 1786; it is now open to the air: the length of the church is 66 feet.

The corporation of Reading was originally a gild, which existed, as it is said, before the foundation of the abbey, claiming a charter from King Edward the Confessor. The townsmen had frequent disputes with the abbots; about the extent of their privileges, but they always ended in the acknowledgment of a paramount authority, on the part of the abbots; who, by virtue of King Henry the First's charter, enjoyed the same right of control over the town; which, before the foundation of the abbey, was vested in the crown. The members of the gild were called burgeses, as early as the year 1254, when the right of the abbots, to elect a master or warden out of three burgeses, presented by the gild, was recognized. The preceding year King Henry III. had granted the gild a charter of privileges and exemptions. In 1351 the master was called mayor; the number of burgeses was indefinite: among other privileges which they enjoyed, was that of keeping swans on the Thames and Kennet. King Henry VII. in 1487, enlarged their authority, and vested in them a superintendence over the inhabitants in general, particularly the manufacturers of cloth.

After the dissolution of the abbey, King Henry VIII. granted a new charter to the town, by which the mayor and burgeses were made a body corporate, with power of electing new burgeses out of the trading inhabitants, and of electing a mayor annually from among the most discreet of the burgeses. By Queen Elizabeth's charter of 1562, the corporation was to consist of a mayor, nine capital burgeses, twelve secondary burgeses, a steward, two cofferers, two or more serjeants at mace, and a clerk of the market. King Charles I. in 1638 changed the style of the corporation to that of mayor, aldermen, and burgeses, the number of aldermen to be thirteen, including the mayor, with twelve assistants. The officers under this charter, were a steward, two chamberlains, and three serjeants at mace: under the same charter, the mayor and his deputy, the late mayor, the senior alderman, the bishop of Salisbury, and his chancellor, are justices of the peace for the borough, and have the power of holding a sessions and court of record. The first charter of King Charles II. adds a recorder to the officers; in a subsequent charter of the same monarch, the town-clerk, who had been an ancient officer of the corporation, is first recognized; this charter extends their licence of mortmain, which before had not exceeded 500*l. per annum*, to 1000*l. per annum*. The charter of King Charles I. is that under which the corporation now act; but it is in some instances departed from, under the authority of his successors' charters. The corporation hold sessions four times in the year, and a weekly court for the trial of small offences.

Reading claims to be a borough by prescription, having sent representatives to parliament from the time of the earliest records. The right of election was, in 1708, adjudged to be in the freemen not receiving alms, and the inhabitants paying scot and lot: in 1716, it was resolved, that the right of election was in the inhabitants only, paying scot and lot: Mr. Coates observes, that the number of votes is estimated at 560.

When the survey of Domesday was taken, 29 houses only were recorded, as paying tax to the king at Reading, which was then far from being one of the most populous towns in the county. After the foundation of the abbey, the frequent resort of the court thither, and, at a later period, the introduction of the clothing manufacture, much contributed to increase its population. According to an account taken by order of Cardinal Pole¹, in 1555, the number of inhabitants of all descriptions in Reading was then 2500, of which 850 were in St. Lawrence's parish, 600 in St. Giles's, and 500 in St. Mary's; Rocque, in 1761, calculates the total number in the three parishes at 8000; Mr. Pearce, in his Agricultural Survey of Berkshire, in 1794, estimates them at 8500. By the returns made to parliament in

¹ In the Bodleian Library.

1801, under the Population Act, it appears there were then in St. Lawrence's parish, 3170 inhabitants; in St. Giles's, 3416; and in St. Mary's, 3156; making, in the whole, 9742. The increased population of late years may be attributed to the great influx of trade, occasioned by its improved communication, by water, both with the metropolis and the great towns in the west. The town is divided into five wards, called the High-Ward, New-Ward, Minster-Ward, Old-Ward, and London-Ward, for each of which a constable is appointed.

The spring-assizes for the county have been, for many years, held at Reading, and the summer-assizes at Abingdon; it seems as if, previously to the year 1689, both assizes had been for some time held at this town^m; but, at an earlier period, there is proof that the Lent-assizes were sometimes held at Abingdonⁿ. The Epiphany sessions for the county are held at Reading; the Michaelmas sessions, either at Abingdon or Reading, at the option of the magistrates.

It has been already mentioned, that the church of the Grey-Friars, having been originally granted for the purpose of a town-hall, is supposed to have been used as such till after Queen Elizabeth's grant of St. John's hospital, in 1560. The upper part of this hospital, which was then converted into a town-hall, was repaired in 1672, principally at the expence of John Blagrove esq. In 1785 it was rebuilt, and is now a very handsome room, 108 feet in length, 32 in width, and 24 in height. Adjoining to it is a spacious council chamber, in which are, among others, the portraits of Sir Thomas White, founder of St. John's college, in Oxford, Archbishop Laud, and Mr. John Kendrick, all natives of Reading, and great benefactors to the town. There are portraits also of Richard Aldworth esq. ancestor of Lord Braybrooke, who was founder of the Blue-coat school, and Sir Thomas Rich bart. a benefactor to that charity.

The old county gaol, which stood in Castle-Street, seems to have occupied the site of the castle, which, it is probable, was first appropriated to the reception of prisoners about the year 1314; when, upon a petition, presented to parliament by the commonalty of Berks, complaining of the inconvenient situation of the county gaol, then at Windsor, a commission was appointed to inquire where it might be fixed, so as to be most advantageous to the king, and commodious to his Berkshire subjects^o.

The present county gaol, which was built about the year 1793, on the site of some of the abbey buildings, is 163 feet 6 inches in front, and 137 feet 6 inches in depth. It contains a commodious house for the keeper, a room for the recep-

^m See Coates's History of Reading, p. 461.

ⁿ See p. 226 of this volume.

^o See Rolls of Parliament, vol. I. p. 300.

tion of the magistrates, a neat chapel, and an infirmary. The male and female prisoners inhabit each a separate wing of the building, which is divided into several courts, where there are day rooms for labour, and other apartments. There are a few cells for the refractory, and some for the purpose of solitary confinement. The gate-house of the monastery was, before the charter of Queen Elizabeth, used as a compter prison. It has been mentioned before, that the church of the Grey-Friars was, for many years, occupied as a house of correction for the county, before the building of the new gaol and the bridewell.

Reading has had a market of much note, from time immemorial. It is a great mart for corn, of which 50,000 quarters are said to be sold annually. The chief corn market is on Saturday. The Wednesday's market is chiefly for butchers' meat, and other provisions. There are four annual fairs, Feb. 2, May 1, July 25, and Sept. 21. Many thousand tons of cheese are brought to the September fair, from the dairy country, and sold in the Forbery. The fair, on the 25th of July, (St. James's day,) was granted by a charter of King Henry II. The founder granted the abbot and convent a fair, at the festival of St. Lawrence, (August 10,) now disused. A new market-house has lately been built for the sale of butchers' meat and vegetables.

The clothing manufacture is said to have been introduced at Reading so early as the reign of Edward I. and many stories are told of Thomas Cole, a rich clothier of that period; it is certain that it flourished in this town, during the 15th and 16th centuries: in the civil war it fell to decay, and never revived. There is now no manufacture of any consequence carried on at Reading; but it is a place of great trade, which has of late years been much increased by the navigable canal, brought thither from Newbury. There are several excellent wharfs on the Kennet. The principal articles of exportation are hoops, bark, wool, corn, malt, and flour. The malting trade is very extensive, and it is said that upwards of 20,000 sacks of flour are sent annually to the metropolis. The high bridge over the Kennet was rebuilt in 1785; the same year the town was paved by act of parliament. The streets are, for the most part, spacious and well built.

The manor of Reading was given to the abbot and convent by the founder's charter. After the dissolution, it was for some time in the crown, was settled on Anne of Denmark, Queen of James I. as part of her jointure, and, after her death, on Charles, Prince of Wales; who, some years after he came to the throne^p, granted all manerial rights and privileges appertaining to the borough to the corporation.

The manor of Colley, or Coley, was at an early period in the Vachells, an ancient family, who appear to have resided at Reading as early as the year 1309.

John Vachell was one of the knights of the shire in 1324: his grandson, or great grandson, settled at Coley; and it continued in his descendants^a till the death of Tanfield Vachell esq. one of the representatives in parliament for the borough of Reading, which happened in 1705. After this, Coley came by purchase to Colonel Thompson, whose daughter brought it in marriage to Sir Philip Jennings Clerk. It became afterwards, by purchase, the property of William Chamberlayne esq. late solicitor to the treasury, whose son has lately sold it to John Mac Connell esq. Coley-house, the family seat of the Vachells, was for a few days the residence of King Charles I. during the civil war^b.

The manor of Whitley, a considerable estate in the parish of St. Giles, which had belonged to the abbey of Reading, was granted by Queen Mary to Sir Francis Englefield; became afterwards the property of the Vachells; was included in Colonel Thompson's purchase of the estates of that family, and has from him descended to the present proprietor, Miss Frances Jennings.

Whitley-Park (the abbot's park, mentioned by Leland, as being at the entrance of Reading town) was granted by Queen Elizabeth to Sir Francis Knollys. It was afterwards a seat of the Kendricks; William Kendrick esq. of Whitley, was created a baronet in 1679: the title is extinct. Whitley-Park is now the property of Sir William Johnson bart.

The manor of *Southcote*, a hamlet in the parish of St. Mary, has belonged, for more than two centuries, to the family of Blagrove. The manor-house was built by John Blagrove, the mathematician: it is probable, that he purchased the manor of the Windfords, who possessed it as early as the year 1558^c. At a much earlier period it seems to have been in the family of Belet. Michael Belet had free-warren in Southcote in 1338^d. During the civil war, Southcote was the residence of Sir John Blagrove, nephew to the mathematician, at whose house the Earl of Essex is supposed to have been posted on his advance to the siege of Reading. Daniel Blagrove, his younger brother, represented the borough of Reading in parliament; he was one of the judges of King Charles I. and, upon the Restoration, secured his safety by flight: the family is now extinct in the male line. The manor and mansion of Southcote, now unoccupied, are the property of John Blagrove esq. of Calcot, in the parish of Tylehurst, who married a daughter of the late Anthony Blagrove, of Southcote, the last heir male of that family. Mr. Blagrove, of Calcot, was the son

^a It is probable, they were tenants of the abbey: after the dissolution, (anno 1544), Henry VIII. granted to Thomas Vachell esq. all the abbot and convent's lands in Coley, of which, by the name of the manor of Coley, he is stated to have died seised in 1554. The descendants of Mr. Vachell removed, after the sale of Coley, to Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire.

^b See p. 332.

^c Esch. Ph. and Mary.

^d Cart. 12. Edw. III.

of Thomas Blagrave esq. of Watchfield, in Shrivenham, and, it is probable, was descended from a family of that name, who, at an early period, possessed the manor of Blagrave, in Lambourn. The Blagraves, of Southcote, are said to have been descended from a Staffordshire family.

The manor or farm of Battle, in the parish of St. Lawrence, which had belonged to Reading abbey, was granted to Sir Francis Knollys, in whose family it continued, in a direct line, till the death of the late Sir Francis Knollys, of Fern-Hill, near Windsor. It is now the property of Francis Knollys esq. late Francis Prankard, who succeeded in establishing his claim to the estates of Sir Francis, as the nearest of kin, in the female line, and has since taken the family name.

There are three parish churches in the town of Reading, St. Lawrence's, St. Mary's, and St. Giles's.

St. Lawrence's church appears to have been rebuilt, or considerably repaired, in 1434. Among the relics belonging to this church in 1517, was "a gridiron of silver, gilt, with a bone of St. Lawrence therein, weighing three quarters of an ounce, the gift of Thomas Lynd esq." In this church lies buried John Blagrave, the celebrated mathematician, author of the *Mathematical Jewell*, and other works, for which he engraved the plates himself; he died in 1611: his monument has his effigies, a half length, under an arch, habited in a cloak and ruff, holding a globe in one hand, and a quadrant in the other; underneath is the following inscription:

"Johannes Blagravus,
Totus Mathematicus,
Cum matre sepultus."

which he directed by his will: his heirs added some very indifferent English verses. Mr. Blagrave bequeathed 100l. for the purpose of making a colonnade on the south side of the church, which was performed by the corporation, pursuant to his intentions in 1619, as appears by an inscription, in which the donor is styled, "*Generosus mathefiosque encomiis celeberrimus.*" The church contains no other monument worthy of notice. There are a few memorials for the Hungerfords, of Wiltshire, and a quaint epitaph on a mural monument in the chancel, to the memory of Richard Fynnemore, or Finmore, brother, it is probable, of William Finmore, who lies buried at North Hinksey*; and it seems to have been composed by the same hand who wrote the inscription on his monument: "Under thy feet, reader, lie the remains of Richard Fynnemore, his father's Benjamin, and his brother's Joseph; who, coming from Oxon to the burial of a friend, found here his own grave, Feb. 6, 1664."

* See p. 294.

St. Lawrence's is a vicarage without either tithes or glebe ; before the reformation the vicar had his lodging in the abbey, the same allowance of bread and beer as the monks, seven-pence a week for his commons, 20s. yearly for his cloathing, a certain portion of dues and oblations, and a horse kept for him in the abbey stables. The vicar's income now arises from the rent of pews, casual emoluments, and a few small benefactions. In 1640, the patronage was given by King Charles I. through the interest of Archbishop Laud, to the president and scholars of St. John's College in Oxford. Dr. John Pordage, who was vicar of St. Lawrence in 1645 and 1646, was an enthusiast of much celebrity, Baxter places him at the head of the Behmenists; his son Samuel was a dramatic poet: Thomas Gilbert and Simon Ford, his successors in the vicarage of St. Lawrence, were both writers ; but their publications were not of much importance.

The chapel of St. Edmund in this parish, near the west end of Friar-street, was built in 1204 by Lawrence Burgefs, bailiff of Reading, by permission of the abbot, on condition of his giving an endowment for its support ; the founder built a hermitage near it, in which he died. This chapel was desecrated in the time of Abbot Thorne, as appears by a memorial presented against him, in 1479, to King Edward IV. for various instances of misconduct: the memorial states, that this chapel, wherein were laid the bones of many Christian people, was then become a barn ; it does not appear that it was ever restored to its former sacred use. In 1546 it was represented in a survey as a barn very necessary for the king's farm of Battle ; this barn was standing about 40 years ago.

In the church-wardens' accounts for this parish, which begin in the reign of Henry VII. are many very curious entries, from which the following are selected ; some of these are not printed among the copious extracts made by Mr. Coates for his History of Reading.

- " 1499. Payed for horsmete for the horsys for the kynges of Colen, on May-day, 6d.
- " ——— To mynstrells the same day 12d.
- " 1507. Paid for brede, ale, and beer, that longyd to the playe in the Forebery.
- " ——— Received Sunday before Bartholomew day for the play in the Forebery, 23s. 8d.
- " 1514. Payd for a gallon of ale, for the ringers at the death of the king of Scots, 2d.
- " 1516. Received of the young men for the kyng play, 43s. 11d.
- " 1518. ——— of the tree of the kyng play, late standing in the mercat place, 12d.
- " 1528. Received of the kyng game at Whytfontide, 42s. 9d.
- " 1541. Paid to Loreman for playing the p'phett (prophet) on Palm Sunday, 2d.
- " 1543. Paid for horse heyr to the dean, and for his labour to play the play in th' abbaye."

It appears that, so lately as Queen Elizabeth's reign, the church wardens made gatherings at the king's ale. These extracts illustrate what is called the king-game.

game, or Kingham, in the church-wardens' accounts at Kingston upon Thames.^{*} The kings of Cologne are, by a legend of the Romish church, supposed to be the wisemen who made their offerings to the infant Jesus, and afterwards travelled to Cologne, where they were all buried: this legend gave rise to a kind of rude drama, which seems to have been a great favourite both before and after the Reformation. The king play is mentioned also in the church-wardens' account for the parish of St. Giles: those for the parish of St. Mary make mention of gatherings at May-games and morrice dances, and at Hoctyde.

St. Mary's church was rebuilt about the year 1551; most of the materials for that purpose were purchased from the abbey-church, then pulled down. In this church is no monument worthy of notice, excepting that of William Kenrick, or Kendrick, said to be descended from the Saxon kings; he was brother of John Kendrick, the great benefactor to this town, and grandfather, it is probable, of Sir William Kendrick, created a baronet in 1679; the monument is the work of John and Matthias Christmas, two brothers, who were artists of some eminence in the reign of King Charles I.

Sir Francis Englefield having, in 1545, purchased the impropriate rectories of this parish and St. Giles's, with that of the neighbouring parish of Tylehurst, gave them, in 1556, to their respective churches for the celebration of masses and obits; for which reason they became forfeited to the crown, in the first year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth. In 1573 the queen granted the great and small tithes of St. Mary's and St. Giles's to the respective vicars of the several parishes and their successors. Both these endowed vicarages are in the gift of the crown.

Christopher Fowler, vicar of St. Mary's, who was ejected for nonconformity in 1662, wrote several controversial tracts; his successor, Peter Mews, who had been an officer in the royal army, was afterwards bishop of Winchester: after his promotion to that see he did signal service in his old profession, having the command of the artillery in the battle fought with the Duke of Monmouth's army at Sedgmoor. He quitted this vicarage in 1667, being succeeded by Dr. William Lloyd, afterwards bishop of Worcester. The three following vicars, William Reeves, Francis Fox, and Dr. Robert Bolton, were all authors, their works being for the most part on theological subjects. Dr. Bolton published also some treatises on the prevailing vices of the age, and essays on the employment of time, very popular in their day.

Mr. John Kendrick, in 1624, left the sum of 250*l.* to be laid out in lands for the

^{*} See *Environs of London*, vol. I.

purpose of maintaining daily prayers in this church at six o'clock in the morning. Mrs. Elizabeth Thorne gave 100*l.* for the same purpose.

There is an Anabaptist meeting in this parish, established in 1655, which has a small endowment, with a house and burial ground, and three other meeting-houses for the Independents and Methodists.

St. Giles's church contains little that is remarkable; the spire, which is 70 feet in height, being of Riga fir, covered with copper, was built in 1790, at the expence of 573*l.* 19*s.* Among the monuments are those of Dr. Nathaniel Resbury, a controversial writer, who died in 1711; and the Hon. William Bromley Cadogan, the late vicar, a popular divine amongst those of the Calvinistic persuasion.

Reading has given birth to several eminent persons; Sir Thomas White, founder of St. John the Baptist's College in Oxford, is said by some to have been born there, being the son of William White, a clothier, who removed thither from Rickmansth^y; to which place Fuller attributes the honour of his birth. Archbishop Laud was born at Reading in 1573, being the son of William Laud, a clothier, who resided in Broad-street. In answer to a speech of Lord Say, who had reproached him with the obscurity of his birth, the archbishop said: "It is true I am a man of ordinary, but very honest, birth; and the memory of my parents favours very well to this day in the town of Reading, where I was born; neither was I so meanly born as perhaps my lord would insinuate, for my father had borne all offices in the town, save the mayoralty^y." John Blagrave, the mathematician, is supposed to have been a native of Reading; but, perhaps, it is equally probable that he was born at Bulmarsh, the seat of his father, in the parish of Sunning. Joseph Blagrave, an astrological writer, who does not appear to have been any relation to the mathematician, was born in the parish of St. Giles, in 1610. Sir Thomas Holt, Recorder of Reading (mistaken by some writers for Lord Chief Justice Holt), Sir John Barnard, the celebrated alderman of London; James Merrick, the translator of the Psalms; William Baker, a learned printer; Sir Constantine Phipps, Lord Chancellor of Ireland; and Dr. Phanuel Bacon, author of some dramas and several pieces of humour, were all natives of Reading.

Leland's account of the foundation of Reading school is, that King Henry VII. coming to this town in the time of abbot Thorne, observed the decayed house of the hospital of St. John, and asked the abbot what old house it was; and on being informed, expressed his desire that it should again be converted *in pios usus*; whereupon the abbot desired that it might be made a grammar-school, and so it was.

^y See Coates's History of Reading, p. 405.

^z Ibid. p. 411.

“ One William Dene, (says the antiquary,) a riche man and fervant in th’abbey of Reading, gave 200 marks, in money, towards the advancement of this schole, as appeareth by his epitaphie in the Abbey chirch of Reading.” It appears by the memorial, presented against abbot Thorne, which is printed in the Appendix to Mr. Coates’s History of Reading, that the abbot having suppressed the hospital of St. John, “ transposed it for a freschole, and feyd unto his neyghbours, that Master Shorborne, dene of Pollys, had graunted him 40l. thereto, and the scholemaster to have 10 marke a yere, and an usher 5 marke a yere, wheras now there bethe no woman of almys ther kepte, nother yet no schole wher thabbot hath taken the profits thereof upon a XXXV. yere, and no good deds done withalle.” It must be observed, that Thorne, who continued abbot 41 years, died in 1486: King Henry VIIth’s reign commenced in the month of August that year; it appears clearly therefore, that the hospital had been converted into a grammar-school, by abbot Thorne, in the reign of Edward IV. had been endowed by dean Sherborn, and discontinued. It is most probable, that it was in the time of the abbot’s successor of the same name, that King Henry VII. revived the school, and endowed it with an annual stipend of 10l. It does not appear that the benefaction, either of dean Sherborn, or of William Dene, mentioned by Leland, now form any part of the endowment of the school: it is most probable, that dean Sherborn’s 40 pounds were appropriated by the abbot to his own use. Since the time of Queen Elizabeth’s charter, the annual sum of 10l. paid before by the crown, has been charged on the corporation; this forms the only endowment of the school, excepting 20l. *per annum* given by archbishop Laud, as an augmentation of the master’s salary. Two scholarships at St. John’s College, in Oxford, were annexed to Reading school, by Sir Thomas White. There are no statutes for the regulation of the school; but Archbishop Laud appointed three visitors, the vice-chancellor of the University of Oxford, the president of St. John’s, and the warden of All-Souls College, and left the interest of 24l. for the expences of their reception and entertainment: they visit every third year. It has been customary, for nearly a century past, for the scholars to recite speeches, or perform plays, at the time of this triennial visitation: the first play on record, is that of Cato, in 1731. The present master, Dr. Valpy, has paid great attention to the theatrical representations, and has altered some of Shakespere’s plays for the use of his scholars.

Leonard Cox, master of this school in 1529, published a treatise on Rhetoric, dedicated to the last abbot of Reading, and other works: in 1541, King Henry VIII. granted him his office by patent, with a salary of 10l. *per annum*, charged on the rectory of Cholsey. Julinus Palmer, master of Reading school, was burnt at
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the stake in Queen Mary's reign. Among eminent persons who received their education in this seminary of learning, may be enumerated, archbishop Laud, John Blagrave the mathematician, James Merrick the translator of the psalms, and the Rev. Charles Coates, author of the History of Reading.

The school-room for many years occupied the lower part of the great hall of St. John's hospital, the upper part being used as a town-hall: when the town-hall was rebuilt, the school continued for some time in its old situation; but having been found subject to many inconveniences, the present master, Dr. Valpy, in the year 1790, built a new school-room, 52 feet in length, at his own expence. The school-master's house, which was built by Mr. Hiley, a former master, for the reception of his boarders, was rented by his successor, Mr. Spicer; who, in 1771, set on foot a subscription for purchasing and annexing it to the school, for the master's residence: liberal contributions were made by the corporation, by St. John's College, and by the neighbouring gentry, particularly such as had been educated in the school; but it was not till 1784 that the intention was carried into effect, and the house purchased for the sum of 800*l.* of Dr. Addington, Mr. Hiley's son-in-law, and vested in the corporation as trustees. Dr. Valpy has considerably enlarged and improved the house, particularly by the addition of a spacious hall and library.

The blue-coat school, in the parish of St. Giles, was founded in 1646, for 20 boys, by Richard Aldworth esq. who gave, for its endowment, the sum of 4000*l.* laid out in lands, now producing an income of nearly 200*l.* *per annum*; Sir Thomas Rich bart. in the year 1666, gave the sum of 1000*l.* laid out also in lands, which now yield a rent of 50*l.* *per annum*, for the education of six boys; Mr. John West, in 1720, gave the sum of 1200*l.* now producing 49*l.* *per annum*, to add six more boys to the establishment; Mr. William Malthus, in 1723, gave a rent-charge of 90*l.* *per annum*, for the education of ten boys; directing that they should wear green coats; these are now incorporated into the same school, and clothed uniformly with the others; Mr. John Pottenger gave 15*l.* *per annum*, to add two more boys to the establishment. Mr. John Hall having given, in 1696, the sum of 25*l.* 15*s.* *per annum*, for the education of nine boys, these also have been incorporated with the blue-coat school, the whole fund of which is now about 400*l.* *per annum*; this school is for the benefit of the three parishes. The present school-house was built in 1723, by the corporation of Reading, at their own expence: the children belonging to this school are apprenticed out of the funds.

In St. Mary's parish is a small school, called the Foundation school, for eight boys and 18 girls, supported by the interest of 300*l.* being part of a fund, bequeathed by Mr. Joseph Neale, for charitable purposes.

The girls' school in the same parish, established in 1779, for children of the three parishes, is supported by annual subscriptions, collections at a sermon, and the interest of donations. Mr. Alderman Richards, in his life-time, and by will, gave 2000l.; Awbery Flory esq. by will, 300l.; the Rev. John Spicer, by will, 200l.; and Mr. Frognall 100l. More than 20 girls are lodged, boarded, and educated, in this school; on leaving it, they are apprenticed as servants in respectable families, the charity allowing 5l. for their clothing; on producing a certificate of good behaviour, they have a premium of half a guinea, when half their apprenticeship is expired, and another half-guinea on the expiration of the whole.

Numerous hospitals and alms-houses have been founded in this town, some of which were abolished long before the reformation, others remain to the present day.

Aucherius, the second abbot of Reading, who died in 1134, founded an hospital for lepers, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen. According to the original institution, each person was to have half a loaf of bread, and half a gallon of ale, daily; 5d. every month for meat; three ells of white or black russet for their habit, and an ell for hose; the chaplain was to have six ells, besides other articles of clothing, or, in lieu, 10s.; the barber was allowed 2d. every month; the laundress a barley loaf daily, and 2s. a-year. For incontinence, or striking a brother, the punishment was expulsion; for defamation, the offender was to fast on bread and water, sitting in the middle of the hall, his portion of meat and drink being distributed meanwhile among his brethren: if he continued obstinate after three repetitions of this punishment, he was to be expelled. This hospital had been discontinued, and the lands belonging to it converted to other purposes, before the year 1413, as appears by an inquisition of that date. The custody of this hospital and its lands was granted, the ensuing year, to John Beke.

Hugh, who became abbot of Reading about the year 1180, founded an hospital near St. Lawrence's church, for the constant support of 13 poor persons, and for the occasional relief of 13 poor sick persons, particularly lepers belonging to the town; and the entertainment of strangers passing through it: the church of St. Lawrence was appropriated for the support of the 13 resident poor, who, according to the original statutes, were clothed and fed: some mills, which had belonged to the abbey of Leominster, were appropriated for the relief of the sick, and for the purpose of entertaining strangers: the churches of Bucklebury and Thatcham were settled also on this hospital.

The hospital of St. John, near St. Lawrence's church, is supposed to have been founded by one of the abbots of Reading; it was intended for "certain women, serving God night and day, and praying for the king's estate, and the souls of the

founder and benefactors ;” they had “ a fair chapel for divine service,” and received their bread, meat, and drink from the abbey ; and every year each sister had a certain sum of money, and clothing. These sisters were such as had been the wives of persons, who had borne some office in the town, and had fallen into poverty, and, in their widowhood, had taken the veil, and made a vow of living unmarried for the remainder of their lives. Mr. Coates supposes this hospital to have been the priory of nuns spoken of in the clause-roll of King John. It appears that, at a subsequent period, if not at the original institution of the hospital, there were brethren also belonging to it, who had an allowance, as they could agree with the almoner. Each sister had a daily allowance of a farthing for meat, excepting on fast days ; on some great festivals a penny, and a dish of meat from the abbey. Their chapel was in the north chancel of St. Lawrence’s church, then called St. John’s chapel. Abbot Thorne suppressed this hospital, and converted it into a school, as hath been already mentioned : it appears that, before his time, the institution had been much abused ; and that so early as 1438, the almoner took a yearly rent from the women who inhabited the apartments of the hospital.

A charter of the year 1230, speaks of the Elemosinary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, at Reading, to which a grant was then made^a. Perhaps this was the hospital of abbot Hugh.

The most ancient alms-house now existing in this town, is that of John Leche, *alias* Alarder, founded in the year 1477, for eight poor persons ; three of St. Mary’s, three of St. Giles’s, and two of St. Lawrence’s parish : they receive a weekly allowance of 1s. 8d. each, and have a gown or coat every year : this alms-house, which stands in the parish of St. Mary, was rebuilt by the corporation in 1775. Mr. Barnard Harrison, in 1617, founded an alms-house for eight poor women of St. Giles’s parish, who receive 6s. 3d. per quarter each, from the benefaction of their founder : some addition to their allowance was made about the same time by other persons : this alms-house has been lately rebuilt. Griffin Jenkins, in 1624, gave five houses to be inhabited, rent free, by poor persons of the parishes of St. Mary and St. Lawrence, but left no endowment. Mr. William Kendrick, in 1634, founded an alms-house for four poor men of the parishes of St. Lawrence and St. Giles, and for one woman : the men to receive 1s. 6d. a week, the woman 1s. besides 5s. a quarter, as laundresses to the men : the men to have a coat, and the woman a gown, once in three years. Sir Thomas Vachell, the same year, founded an alms-house for six aged and unmarried men, two of each parish, and endowed it with 40l. *per annum*. Mr. Richard Jeys, in 1647, founded an alms-house in St. Mary’s parish, for four poor widows, and endowed it with lands, now let at 5l.

^a Cl. Rot. 15 Hen. III.

per annum. Mr. John Webb, in 1653, founded an alms-house for four poor widows of the parish of St. Lawrence, who receive 1s. a-week each : Mr. John Hall, in 1696, founded an alms-house for five poor single women, two of St. Giles's parish, two of St. Lawrence's, and one of St. Mary's, and endowed it with 25l. *per annum*, rent-charge, allotting 1s. 6d. to each weekly, 12s. *per annum* for firing, and 10s. for clothes.

Archbishop Laud gave, by will, the sum of 100l. *per annum* to this his native town, to be appropriated, two successive years, to the apprenticing ten poor boys ; and every third year to be given, as marriage portions, to five poor maids, born in Reading, who shall have lived in service three years in the same place : this benefaction is in the disposal of the corporation. Mr. John Blagrove gave a marriage portion of 20 nobles (6l. 13s. 4d.) to be given every year to a poor maid, who shall have lived five years in service, in Reading : this portion is drawn for by lot on Good-Friday, by three claimants, one out of each parish ; the unsuccessful candidates are entitled to try their fortune again the next year, but no one to have more than three chances : the corporation select the candidates. The Rev. William Boudry and John Richards esq. gave by deed, in 1755, the yearly sum of 7l. 14s. 6d. to one of three poor maids, qualified as above, to be drawn for by lot, on the Monday after St. Bartholomew's day ; the trust of this charity is vested in the corporation. Mr. Kendrick, the great benefactor to the town, gave the sum of 100l. to be disposed of in marriage portions, of 40s. each, to maid servants ; it is probable that the principal was so applied after his decease.

Almost the whole of Mr. Kendrick's munificent bequests, amounting to no less a sum than 7500l. appear to have been sunk, without accomplishing the benevolent purposes of the donor, who had appropriated them to the relief of the poor, and the support of the woollen manufacture in this town, which has been long ago wholly removed. A building, now called the Oracle, was erected about the year 1628, at the expence of nearly 2000l. being part of the sum left by Mr. Kendrick, who had directed that a strong and commodious house should be built, in which the poor might be employed in the woollen manufacture ; in addition to this, a considerable expence was incurred in fitting it up, and providing materials. The manufacture was, for some time, carried on with success ; but was interrupted by the civil war, and the house then converted into a garrison. Great losses were incurred about the close of the 17th century ; and it is understood, that there is no fund now remaining out of Mr. Kendrick's large donations excepting the sum of 500l. which he expressly appointed to be lent, without interest, to clothiers ; and which, since the total removal of the clothing manufacture has been lent to industrious young tradesmen of other descriptions. The building, called the Oracle, has been used for various manu-
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factures ;

factures ; it being granted by the corporation to any respectable manufacturer, who will employ the poor of the town. In the year 1749, Mr. John Watts published a pamphlet, entitled, “ the Black Scene Opened,” complaining of the various abuses then existing, in the management of Mr. Kendrick’s charities. Various parts of the Oracle were rebuilt in 1727 and 1767 ; the original portico remains.

Sir Thomas White left the sum of 100*l.* to be lent, without interest, in sums of 25*l.* each, to four young men in the clothing trade.

Various benefactions have been given to the poor of this town, in money, bread, and clothing ; among others is one of 20*s.* *per annum* each, to five poor butchers, by Mr. William Jones, in 1669, and another of 5*l.* *per annum* each, to eight poor blind persons of Reading and Newbury.

A dispensary for relieving the sick poor, with advice and medicines, was established at Reading in 1802 ; it is supported by voluntary contributions : Lord Braybrooke is president ; the two members for the town, and the mayor for the time being, vice-presidents.

REMENHAM, in the hundred of Barnerth, lies in the north-east corner of the county, about a mile and a half from Henley-upon-Thames. The manor belonged, in the reign of Henry VI. to the Montforts^b ; Lord Lovelace died seized of it in 1634^c ; from his family it passed, by purchase, to the Whitlocks : it was afterwards Lord Archibald Hamilton’s, and is now the property of Strickland Freeman esq. of Fawley, whose uncle purchased it about the year 1760, of Dr. Cooper. The principal and scholars of Jesus College, in Oxford, are patrons of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Reading. The parish has been inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1799, when an allotment of land was assigned to the rector, in lieu of tithes.

In this parish is Park-place, the well-known seat of the late Field-Marshal Conway, now belonging to the Earl of Malmesbury. It had been the property and residence of Lord Archibald Hamilton, who was lord of the manor ; and afterwards, for a short time, of his Royal Highness, Frederick, Prince of Wales, father of his present Majesty. The house was considerably enlarged by Marshal Conway, and the grounds, which possess natural advantages that few places can boast, were laid out by him with much taste, and with great attention to the character of the surrounding scenery. One of the most striking situations in the park is a secluded valley, planted with fine groups of trees : at the upper end is a Grecian ruin, very happily designed and executed ; and at the bottom a rustic arch, over which passes the road from Henley to Wargrave. It was built of stones brought from the

^b Esch. 31 Hen. VI.

^c Esch. Car. I.

ruins of Reading abbey : underneath is seen the river. On the hill, a little beyond the pleasure grounds, is placed a small Druidical temple, found near the town of St. Helier, in the island of Jersey, in the year 1785, presented by the inhabitants to Marshal Conway, then their governor, and by him removed to its present situation. Lord Malmesbury purchased Park-place of the late Countess Dowager of Aylesbury, Marshal Conway's widow. His Lordship has considerably improved the house, which contains a noble library, partly inherited from his father, James Harris esq. the celebrated philologist, and partly purchased by himself on the continent, during his foreign embassies. In one of the rooms is a good portrait of Brian Duppa, bishop of Winchester. Marshal Conway erected some works for the distilling of lavender, near the foot of Henley-hill, and an elegant cottage, in a situation remarkably picturesque, now in the occupation of Mr. Culverden : the lavender plantations, which are extensive, are kept up, and the distillery continued.

RUSCOMB, in the hundred and within the manor of Sunning, lies about six miles east of Reading. The late Chief Justice Eyre, who had a seat at Ruscomb, now the property of his widow, and in the occupation of the Dowager Lady Howard, of Walden, was lessee of the manerial rights of this parish, under Mr. Palmer, lord of the manor of Sunning. The manor and lands of Ruscomb-Northbury were held under the prebendary of Combe and Harnham, in the church of Salisbury, by the family of Knight. The late William Walter Knight esq. assigned the lease to Robert Palmer esq. who, in 1787, conveyed it to Sir James Eyre, then chief baron of the exchequer.

In the parish church are memorials of the family of Knight, and of the Aldworths, of Stanlake, in this parish, which, in 1746, was occupied by the Earl of Peterborough⁴, and is now the property and seat of Sir Nathaniel Duckenfield bart. The late Mr. Aldworth took the name of Neville, in consequence of an alliance with that family : his son is now Lord Braybrooke. Sir James Eyre knt. late lord chief justice of the common pleas, lies buried in the chancel. The great tithes of this parish are held on lease, by Richard Palmer esq. of Sunning, under the dean of Salisbury : the dean is patron of the benefice, which is a perpetual curacy, with a stipend of 30*l. per annum*, within his own peculiar jurisdiction.

SANDHURST, in the hundred of Sunning, lies nearly five miles to the south-east of Wokingham. The manor belongs to Richard Heavyside esq. having been acquired, by purchase, from General Williamson, whose family had possessed it many years. The great tithes are impropriated to the dean of Salisbury. The

⁴ Simpson's English Traveller, vol. I. p. 48.

dean is patron of the parochial chapel, which is subject to Sunning, and within his own peculiar jurisdiction. An extensive building is about to be erected in this parish, for the purpose of a military college, from the designs of James Wyatt esq.

SANDLEFORD, in the hundred of Faircross, lies on the borders of Hampshire, two miles south of Newbury. Geoffrey, Earl of Perch, and Maud, his wife, about the year 1200^c, founded a small priory at this place for Austin canons, dedicated to St. John the Baptist. A dispute having arisen, in the reign of Edward IV. between the prior and the bishop of Salisbury, in consequence of which the monastery was wholly forsaken by its inhabitants; the king, at the instance of the bishop of Salisbury, gave it to the dean and chapter of Windfor. In the reign of James I. the rector of Newbury, and the lessee of Sandleford, having had a dispute about tithes, there was an award of Chancery, by which Sandleford, consisting only of the Priory-house, was declared to be a separate and distinct parish. The owner of Sandleford was always to have a pew in Newbury church, and to pay 8l. *per annum* to the rector, in lieu of all demands for tithes^f. In consequence of this award, the old chapel, in which was the monument of a crusader, probably the founder, was disused, and has since been destroyed. Sandleford-house and manor, in the early part of the last century, belonged to the Pitts, of Stratfield-Say, by whom the lease was sold, in 1717, to William Cradock esq. After an intermediate alienation, it was purchased, in 1730, by Edward Montagu esq. of Denton-hall, in Northumberland, grandson of the first Earl of Sandwich. Sandleford-house was, for many years, the seat of his widow, the late celebrated Mrs. Elizabeth Montagu: it was rebuilt for this lady, principally in the Gothic style, by Mr. Wyatt. The lease is now the property of her nephew, Matthew Montagu esq. who is proprietor also of the adjoining manor of Peckmore.

SATWELL, or SOTWELL, lying about a mile and a half to the west of Wallingford, has a parochial chapel, dependant on the church of St. Leonard, in that town. The manor, which anciently belonged to the family of Stonor^g, was, of late years, in the Stonhouses, of whom it was purchased by the father of Mr. Hazell, the present proprietor.

SHALBOURN, SHALDEBORNE, or SHAWBORN, in the hundred of Faircross, about four miles south of Hungerford, lies at the south-west corner of the county, on the borders of Hampshire and Wiltshire: part of the parish and village are in Wilts. The manor passed, in the 13th century, by marriage, from the Greys to

^c It was before the year 1205.

^f Mr. Montagu's Papers.

^g Esch. Edw. III.

the baronial family of Tatshall^b; and from the Tatshalls, by female heirs, to the Cromwells. Sir William Cromwell died seized of it in 1429ⁱ. At a later period we have an account of two manors in this parish, called East-Court and West-Court: the latter was, in 1473, in the family of Bury^k. They are now both the property of the Earl of Aylesbury, to whom they descended from the protector Somerset, in consequence of the marriage of Thomas, Earl of Aylesbury, with the only daughter of Henry Seymour, son of William, Duke of Somerset, who was restored to his honours in 1640. East-Court was acquired by the Duke of Somerset, in exchange for other lands, of Sir Thomas Cheyne^l.

The manor of Oxenwood, in this parish, is the property of Thomas Rendall esq.

In the parish church is the monument of Francis Choke, who died in 1561; it has his effigies in armour, with a beard of remarkable length: there are some memorials also of the families of Cliffe and Mayott.

In the Wiltshire part of the village is an ancient chapel, belonging to Mr. Barns, to which is annexed a portion of tithes, of about 300 acres. The rectory of Shalbourn, which had before belonged to the priory of Sherbourn, constituted a part of the original endowment of the collegiate chapel of Windsor; the dean and chapter are patrons of the vicarage. The Earl of Aylesbury has lately purchased the lease of the impropriate parsonage of Mr. Rendall: Shalbourn is situated within the deanery of Newbury, but is in the peculiar jurisdiction of the dean of Salisbury; the dean and chapter of Windsor have the archidiaconal jurisdiction. This parish has been inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1800, under which a division was made between the counties of Berks and Wilts: the lands were not exonerated from tithes.

SHAW, in the hundred of Faircross, lies about a mile to the north-east of Newbury. The manor belonged, in the 13th century, to the family of Columbers, or De Columbariis^m, from whom it passed to the Bassets, of Draytonⁿ. No farther particulars can be traced relating to it till the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when it was purchased by Mr. Dolman, an opulent clothier of Newbury, who seems to have possessed almost an equal degree of consequence with the Winchcombes, of that town. In the year 1581, he completed a stately brick mansion, on the site of this manor, now called Shaw-place, which is said to have excited, in no small degree, the envy of his neighbours; a circumstance, which is supposed to be alluded to in the following inscription, still to be seen over the portico; "EDENTULUS VES-

^b Cl. 31 Hen. III.

ⁱ Esch. Hen. VI.

^k Esch. Edw. IV.

^l Lord Aylesbury's Papers.

^m Esch. Edw. I.—Edw. III.

ⁿ Esch. Edw. III.

CENTIUM DENTIBUS INVIDET ET OCULOS CAPREARUM TALPA CONTEMNIT.”
Mr. Dolman was sheriff for the county in 1588.

In the second battle of Newbury, some of the king's troops were posted in this house, under the command of Lieut. Col. Page, who, being attacked whilst there by a large body of foot, repulsed them with great loss. A basket-full of cannon-balls, picked up at various times about the gardens and grounds, are to be seen at Shaw-place: they are supposed to have been fired at it during the above mentioned attack; but it is more probable that they were spent balls, fired at the siege of the neighbouring castle of Donnington, or from the principal scene of action during one of the battles of Newbury; for it does not appear, that any cannon were made use of in the attack above mentioned, nor does the house exhibit the appearance of having sustained any injury. It has been said, that it was Sir George Lisle, who defended Mr. Dolman's house; but Lord Clarendon, who gives a very circumstantial account of the action, tells us, that Sir George Lisle and Sir Jacob Astley had the command in that *quarter*; and that it was Colonel Page who was stationed in the house: a party of the king's foot were posted in Mr. Dolman's garden.

The manor of Shaw continued in the Dolman family till about the year 1727, when it was sold to James, Duke of Chandos. It was purchased of the duke's representatives in 1749, by Joseph Andrews esq. his son, the late Sir Joseph Andrews, was created a baronet in 1766, with remainder to the issue of his brother, James Petit Andrews esq. since deceased, whose eldest and only surviving son, now Sir Joseph Andrews bart. succeeded to the title and estate, on the death of his uncle, which happened at Shaw-place, Dec. 29, 1800. The late Sir Joseph Andrews was distinguished for his active benevolence, as the zealous promoter of every institution which had, for its object, either public utility, or the relief of individual distress. Shaw-place is said to have been honoured, at various times, with royal visits, in the time of the Dolmans.

The abbot and convent of Waverly had a considerable estate in this parish.

In the parish church are memorials of Sir Thomas Dolman, the elder, and Sir Thomas Dolman, the younger, who died in 1697 and 1711; Lydia Catherine, duchess dowager of Chandos, who died in 1750; and Admiral Thorpe Fowke. Sir Joseph Andrews is patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Newbury.

In this parish, (not in Spene, as erroneously stated by the editor of Ashmole's Collections, and others,) lie the hamlet and castle of *Donnington*, or Dunnington. The manor of Donnington was in the family of Abberbury, as early as the year 1292^a. The castle is said to have been built by Sir Richard Abberbury, who had been guardian to King Richard II. in his minority, and was expelled from court

^a Magna Britannia.

^b Taxation of Pope Nicholas.

^c Esch. 20 Edw. I.

by the discontented lords in 1388, for his adherence to that monarch^r. When Sir Richard Abberbury died, and when or how this castle and manor ceased to be his property, cannot be ascertained, as the inquisition taken after his death is not to be found at the Tower; it seems that he was living in 1397: his son, who was that year sheriff for Berks and Oxfordshire, being described as Sir Richard Abberbury the younger. It has been said that Geoffrey Chaucer, the father of English poetry, became possessed of Donnington-Castle, about this time, and that he retired thither in 1398, two years before his death. This fact appears very doubtful; no connection is to be discovered between the families of Abberbury and Chaucer, nor was the poet, towards the close of his life, in such affluent circumstances as to be able to make any considerable purchase. The most probable conjecture perhaps is, that his son Thomas Chaucer, who married a rich heiress, daughter of Sir John de Burgherft, purchased Donnington of the Abberburys, in or about 1398. Thomas Chaucer was sheriff of Berks and Oxfordshire, in 1399; he was then described as of Ewelme, which he possessed in right of his wife, as part of the inheritance of the Burgherfts: it is probable that he might have given Donnington to his father for life, and that he afterwards settled it on his daughter and heir Alice, and her first husband, Sir John Phelip, who died, seized of the manor and castle in her right, in 1415^s. William De la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, her last husband, for she was thrice married^t, became afterwards possessed of it, made it his occasional residence, and considerably enlarged the buildings of the castle. Upon the attainder of this nobleman, or one of his grandsons, Donnington became vested in the crown, and was granted to Charles Brandon, on whom King Henry VIII. bestowed the honours of this unfortunate family. Camden, in whose time the castle was entire, describes it as an elegant but small structure, on the top of a woody hill, commanding a pleasant prospect, and lighted by windows on every side. About this time it appears to have belonged to Charles, Earl of Nottingham, the Lord Admiral; in the year 1570, he certainly was possessed of it, and in that year refounded the hospital at Donnington. In 1623, Thomas Chamberleyne esq. was described of Donnington Castle^u.

In 1643, being then the property of the Packer family, it was garrisoned for the king, being esteemed an important post, as commanding the road from Oxford to Newbury; and the great road from London to Bath, and other parts of the west of England. The command of the garrison was given to Captain John Boys, who, by the bravery with which he defended it, during a long siege, shewed himself well worthy of the trust. It was first attacked by the parliamentary army,

^r Holinshed. ^s Esch. 3 Hen. V.
who fell at the siege of Orleans.

^t Her second husband was the brave Earl of Salisbury,
^u Berkshire Pedigrees. Perhaps he was only a tenant.

consisting of three thousand horse and foot, under the command of Major-General Middleton. In return to the general's summons, the governor sent the following spirited reply. "Sir, I am entrusted by his Majesty's express command, and have not learned yet to obey any other than my sovereign; to spare blood, do as you please, but myself, and those that are with me, are fully resolved freely to venture ours, in maintaining what we are here entrusted with, which is the answer of

JOHN BOYS*."

The general then attempted to take the castle by assault, but was repulsed with considerable loss. Not long afterwards, on the 29th of September 1644, Colonel Horton began a blockade, having raised a battery at the foot of the hill near Newbury, from which he plied the castle so incessantly during the space of 12 days, that he reduced it to a heap of ruins, having beat down three of the towers and a part of the wall; nearly one thousand great shot are said to have been expended, during this time^y. Col. Horton having received reinforcements, sent a summons to the governor, who refused to listen to any terms; soon afterwards, the Earl of Manchester came to the siege with his army, but their united attempts proved fruitless; and after two or three days more of ineffectual battering, during which the besieged made a very successful sally, the whole army rose up from before the walls, and marched in different directions^z. When the king came to Newbury, he knighted the governor for his good services.

During the second battle of Newbury, Sir John Boys secured the king's artillery, under the castle walls. After the battle, the king being gone with his army to Oxford, the Earl of Essex, with his whole force, besieged Donnington Castle, with no better success than others had done: he had given over the attempt before the king returned thither, from Oxford, which he did purposely for its relief, on the 4th of November 1644: it was then re-victualled without opposition, and the king slept that night in the castle, with his army around him^a. The only part of the castle that now remains, is a gateway, which has two towers; it is probable, that the walls received so much injury, that they were incapable of repair. The site passed by a female heir from the Packers, to the Hartleys, and is now the property of Winchcombe Henry Howard Hartley, a minor. The castle-house, a mansion not far from the castle, was for some time occupied by the Rev. Mr. O'Beirne, now bishop of Meath; it is at present in the occupation of Col. Stead, who has resided there several years.

* Heath's Chronicle, p. 62.

^y Clarendon and Heath.

^z Heath.

^a Clarendon.—Sir Edward Walker says, that King Charles slept in Donnington Castle on the 9th of November.—See his Historical Discourses.

The manor of Donnington is now held under the king, by William Lowndes esq. as parcel of the honor of Wallingford.

A modern house, under the hill, was built by the late James Petit Andrews esq. author of "the History of Great Britain, connected with the Chronology of Europe," and was for a time his seat. He afterwards sold it to the late William Brummell esq.

The small priory of Trinitarians, and the hospital, or God's house, spoken of by bishop Tanner, as both founded by Sir Richard Abberbury, appear to have been one and the same foundation. The bishop speaks of the priory, as having been founded by Sir Richard Abberbury, in 1392, (16 Ric. II.) but it is observed in a note, that at its suppression in 1534, the principal, in the deed of surrender, is not called *prior*, but *minister*: the revenues of the house were then valued at 19l. 3s. 10d. The charter of 16 Richard II. which indeed is the only record of a religious house, founded by Sir Richard Abberbury, informs us, that being in his old age, he then established at Donnington a house of God, for a *minister*, and certain poor persons, to pray for the king's soul, the founder's soul, &c. and endowed it with two acres of land, in Donnington, and the manor of Yestely, or Isley, near Oxford. After the dissolution, the estates of this hospital continued in the crown, till about the year 1570, when, upon the petition of Charles Earl of Nottingham, the Lord Admiral, they were restored to the hospital, which from that time was called, "the hospital of Queen Elizabeth, at Donnington, in time past begun to be founded by Sir Richard Abberbury knt. and by Charles Howard, Earl of Nottingham, perfected and consummated." It is probable that the hospital was rebuilt, at the earl's expence; by the statutes^b then ordained, the patronage of the hospital was to be vested in the Lord Admiral, his heirs and assigns: the foundation was to consist of a master and twelve poor brethren; the master was to have three quarters and four bushels of wheat, annually, and 4d. a-day in money; the poor men, one quarter and seven bushels yearly, and 2d. a-day in money; the allowance to be increased according to the revenues of the hospital: the profits of the estate are now divided into fourteen equal shares, of which the master receives two. The patronage is vested in Henry Winchcombe Howard Hartley, a minor, son of the late Winchcombe Henry Hartley esq. as descended by female heirs from the Packers, who seem to have purchased Donnington-Castle, and with it the patronage of the hospital of the second Earl of Nottingham. The statutes of the Lord Admiral give no directions as to the qualifications of the alms-men, who are to be "such as the earl, his heirs or assigns, in his or their discretion shall think meet." The

^b A Copy of the Earl of Nottingham's Statutes for the hospital at Donnington, may be seen in the Bodleian Library at Oxford.

ordinances of the original founder direct, that “as soon as any man has passed out of this house, as by way of death, either put out by trespass making, another shall be chosen by his heirs, of his poor tenants, either of his servants, or some poor man to whom he liketh his alms to give.”

Not far from this hospital is a house called the priory, the seat of Frederick Cowslade esq. It has been already observed, that there is no record of any religious house at this place, excepting the hospital of Donnington, which has been some times improperly called a priory. It would not have been an improbable conjecture, that Mr. Cowslade’s was the site of the ancient hospital; but there are documents which prove that the site was not altered, when it was rebuilt in 1570.

GREAT, OR WEST-SHEFFORD, in the hundred of Kentbury-Eagle, lies on the road from Newbury to Lambourn, being nine miles from Newbury, four from Lambourn, five from Hungerford, and eight from Wantage. One of the Sheffords, but it is uncertain which, was in the Dover family in the reign of Henry II. was granted by King Henry III. to Payne Paverell, and was afterwards in the family of Bokesworth^d; the other was in the family of *de Ripariis*, or Rivers^e. At a later period the manor of Great-Shefford belonged for a considerable time to a branch of the Brydges family^f; Eleanor, daughter of Anthony Brydges esq. the last heir male of this branch, who died in 1613, brought it in marriage to George Browne esq.^g whose grandson, Sir George Browne bart. sold it, in 1716, to Sir William Trumbull^h, and it is now the property of his representative, the marchioness of Downshire.

The manor, or manor farm of Whatcomb, in this parish, now the property of John Hyde esq. was anciently in the family of Colehillⁱ, and afterwards in that of Haute^k.

In the parish church are some memorials of the Brownes, some time lords of the manor, a younger branch of the family of Browne Viscount Montagu. Sir George Browne, who died in 1678, was knight of the Bath, his younger brother John, was created a baronet in 1665.

The principal and scholars of Brazen-Nose College, in Oxford, are patrons of the rectory which is in the deanery of Newbury. The college bought the advowson in 1736, of Mr. Linton, who had purchased it in 1708, of Sir George Browne.

^c Communicated by the Rev. Mr. Cox, one of the guardians of Mr. Hartley, patron of the hospital.

^d See a recital in Cart. 6 Edw. III. No. 5. when it was confirmed to Henry de Bokesworth.

^e Esch. 6 Edw. I.

^f See Collins’s Peerage.

^g Answers to

Mr. Rowe Mores’s *Queries*, published in Bib. Top. Brit.

^h Ibid.

ⁱ Esch. Edw. III.

^k Bundel. Placit. &c. in Turr. Lond. Co. Berks. No. 38.

Sir Edward Walker, in his *Historical Discourses*¹, informs us that King Charles was quartered at Shefford on the 19th of November, 1644.

LITTLE-SHEFFORD or EAST-SHEFFORD, in the hundred of Kentbury-Eagle, lies on the road from Newbury to Lambourn, being eight miles from the former place and five from the latter; the manor was, at an early period, in the family of Fettiplace. Thomas Fettiplace, of East-Shefford, married Beatrice, an illegitimate daughter of John, King of Portugal; who had been successively the widow of Thomas Earl of Arundel, Gilbert Lord Talbot^m, and John Earl of Huntingdonⁿ. The grandson of this Thomas Fettiplace married the heiress of Befils, and rebuilt the manor-house at East-Shefford, the ruins of which yet remain, and exhibit the arms of Befils on the stone-work of some of the windows. Sir Richard Elyot, appointed one of the justices of the King's Bench in 1515, had a temporary interest in this manor by marrying the relict of one of the Fettiplaces^o. Edmund Fettiplace, grandson of Thomas above-mentioned, quitted Shefford for Befils-Legh. This manor, having been afterwards purchased by the Winchcombes^p, descended with their other estates to the late Winchcombe Henry Hartley esq. and is now the property of his son Winchcombe Henry Howard Hartley, a minor.

In the parish church is a handsome monument, with figures in alabaster, of a man in armour, and a female, without any inscription or arms, and the monument of John Fettiplace, who died in 1524; in the windows are the arms of Fettiplace quartering Befils, and some mutilated figures of Saints. Mr. Hartley is patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Newbury.

The school founded by Lady Frances Winchcombe, at Thatcham, was intended for the education of children of that parish, Bucklebury, and East-Shefford; but on account of the distance (being seven miles), the benefaction has been of very little benefit to East-Shefford.

SHILLINGFORD, in the hundred of Ganfield, lies about two miles and a half to the south-east of Faringdon. The manor, which before the Reformation belonged to the abbot and convent of Abingdon, was afterwards in the Untons^q and Packers; it was purchased of the latter in 1738 by Sarah Duchess of Marlborough, and is now the property of William Yarnton Mills esq. who bought it of Earl Spencer in 1796.

The manor-house, an ancient stone building, called, it does not appear for what reason, Shillingford castle, was many years ago the seat of the Packers. It has been for a considerable time uninhabited.

¹ Page 120. ^m Berkshire Pedigrees in the British Museum. ⁿ Dugdale. ^o See his will.

^p Henry Winchcombe died seised of it, 18 Car. 1. ^q Esch. 40 Eliz.

In the parish church is an ancient monument of John de Blewbury, a priest, who died in 1372; that of Sir Edward Hannes, physician to Queen Anne, with his bust; and that of the late Lord Ashbrook, who died at Shillingford in 1780, being tenant of the manor-house: there are memorials also for Edward Neville esq. son of Sir Henry, 1632; and for some of the Packer family. Mr. Mills is patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Abingdon.

SHILTON lies partly in an insulated district of Berkshire, surrounded by Oxfordshire, two miles and a half from Burford, and four from Bampton. The church and part of the parsonage house are in Oxfordshire, the greater part of the parish in Berkshire. The manor belonged to the prior and convent of Beaulieu, to whom it was given by King John, together with the church, in 1205: since the Reformation it has been in the families of Unton^a, Peniston^r, Rainton^s, Bray^t, and Fettiplace; it is now the property of Charles Fettiplace esq. The parish has been inclosed by an act of parliament passed in 1794, when allotments of land were made to the lay rector, to the vicar, and other tithe owners.

SHINFIELD, in the hundred of Charlton, lies four miles to the south-east of Reading: part of this parish is in an insulated district of Wiltshire. The manor, which at an early period had belonged to the St. Johns^u, was, about the year 1600, in the family of Marten, from whom it passed by a female heir to the Wollascots^x. The Earl of Fingal, who married the heiress of the Wollascots, sold it to Alexander Cobham esq. the present proprietor. Mr. Cobham has another small manor in the parish, which belonged to the family of Hyde, under a grant of King James I.

The manor of Hartley-Dummer in this parish, lying in the county of Wilts, is the property of John Dearsley esq.

The manor of Beams, in the same county, now the property of Henry Lannoy Hunter esq. lying partly in this parish and partly in Swallowfield, is the same with Beaumys (described in old records^y as being in the county of Wilts, near Reading,) which belonged anciently to the De la Beches. Nicholas Lord de la Beche had the king's licence to fortify his manor house at Beaumys, in 1338^z. In 1352, a most outrageous assault was committed at this castle by John de Dalton, who, coming with an armed force, killed Michael le Poynings, uncle to Lord Poynings, Thomas le Clerk, and others, frightened Roger Hunt, the chaplain, to death, carried away

^a Esch. Eliz.^r Ibid.^s Monumental Inscriptions.^t Ibid.^u Nomina Villarum, No. 6281, Harl. MSS.^x See Esch. 2 Jac.^y See on Pat. 26 Edw. III. pt. 1.^z a pardon to Hugh Fazakerly.^z Pat. 12 Edw. III.

goods and chattels to the amount of 1000*l.* and took several prisoners; among whom was Margaret Lady De la Beche, owner of the castle (then the wife of Sir Thomas Arderne^a). In the reign of Edward IV. the manor of Beaumys was in the family of Stonor^b. Mr. Hunter's house is in the parish of Shinfield; not far from it, on a small elevation in the adjoining parish of Swallowfield, is an ancient moat, which, it is probable, was the site of Beaumys Castle. Mr. Hunter has another house at a little distance, in the neighbouring parish of Stratfield-Say (now in the occupation of Mr. Musgrave) called Beech-hill, probably from the De la Beches. Mr. Hunter has also the manors of Great and Little Shipbridge, partly in this parish and partly in Swallowfield.

The manor of Hartley-Court, which was, for many years, in the family of Beke^c, is now the property of John Deane esq.; the Bekes held it under the family of Vachell: Thomas Vachell esq. died seised of the manor of *Hertley*, in 1553.^d The Norris family had, for many years, a manor in Shinfield.

In the church are memorials for the family of Beke, of Hartley-Court. The dean and chapter of Hereford are impropiators of the great tithes, and patrons of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Reading: Mr. Cobham is lessee.

Richard Pigot founded a school at Shinfield, in 1707, and endowed it with 42*l.* *per annum*, for the education of 20 poor children.

SHOTTESBROKE, in the hundred of Barnerish, lies about four miles to the south-west of Maidenhead, and nearly nine miles west of Windfor. At this place was a small college, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, for a warden and five priests, founded in 1337, by Sir William Trussell, of Cubbleston, in Staffordshire^e, and endowed with the church of Shottesbroke, and a rent charge of 40*s.* *per annum*, on the manor, of which he was then lord. Soon after its foundation, the college was almost destroyed by fire; in consequence of which misfortune, the church of Bafilden, and other lands, were given for its support^f. The revenues of this college, which was suppressed in the first year of King Edward VI. were then estimated at 33*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.* clear yearly value^g. Its site is supposed to have been to the north of the parish church, where is an old house, formerly the residence of the learned Mr. Dodwell, now inhabited by one of Mr. Vanfittart's servants. The lands belonging to the college were granted to the family of Weldon^h.

^a See Pat. 26 Edw. III. Kennet's Paroch. Antiq. and Rolls of Parliament. ^b Cl. Rot. 22 Edw. IV.

^c Esch. Hen. VIII. and Monumental Inscriptions. ^d Esch. 1 Mary. ^e Pat. 11 Edw. III.

^f See Hearne's Account of Shottesbroke, annexed to Leland's Itinerary, vol. V.

^g Tanner. ^h Ibid.

The manor of Shottesbroke belonged, at an early period, to a family, who took their name from the village: about the year 1300 it passed, by a female heir, to the ancient family of Vis de Louⁱ, soon afterwards extinct. In 1340, Sir William Trussell, who had then been some time in possession of the manor, obtained for himself, and his successors, a charter of exemption from expeditation^k of his dogs^l. The manor continued a considerable time in the Trussell family. Sir William Trussell, who died in 1481, left a son, Edward^m; the same, it is supposed, who became afterwards a knight-banneret, and whose daughter and heir married John Vere, Earl of Oxfordⁿ. It is probable, that this manor was sold by Edward Vere, Earl of Oxford (who, about that time, dissipated the greater part of his fortune) to the family of Powle, who possessed it in the reign of Queen Elizabeth^o: from them it passed to the Cherrys. Shottesbroke is now the property and seat of Arthur Vansittart esq. M.P.; his ancestor purchased it of the representatives of Francis Cherry esq. who died in 1713.

This manor was anciently held by a singular species of grand serjeanty; namely, by the service of providing charcoal to make the crown, and other regalia, for the king's coronation, the sum of 60 shillings and 10d. being allowed for it by the king^p. It may be observed, as a circumstance which throws some light on the origin of this singular tenure, that the manor of Shottesbroke, then called Sotesbroke, belonged, in the time of William Rufus, to Alward, the goldsmith, whose father held it under King Edward the Confessor.

The parish church, a handsome Gothic structure, was built in the form of a cross, in allusion, as has been supposed, to the arms of the founder, Sir William Trussell, which are a cross flory. The monuments of the founder, and his lady, are in the north transept; plain altar tombs, under groined arches, richly ornamented with Gothic tracery. The founder is said to have been cousin-german of a more celebrated person, of the same name, prolocutor of the parliament which deposed King Edward II.^q Margaret, daughter and heir^r of Sir William Trussell, of Shottesbroke, married Sir Fulke Pembrugge; and, dying in 1399, lies buried near the tomb of her father, under a slab, on which is her effigies, in brass, with a head-dress, richly ornamented. In the same transept is the tomb of Sir Richard Powle, K.B. who died in 1678, and that of Thomas Noke, with his effigies, on brass, "who, for his great age and virtuous life, was revered of all men, and

ⁱ See Esch. Hen. III. and 28 Edw. I.
 to prevent their hunting in the king's forests.

^k A practice of cutting out the ball of the foot, to

^l Pat. 14 Edw. III.

^m Esch. 20 Edw. IV.

ⁿ Brooke's Catalogue.

^o Monumental Inscriptions.

^p Blount's Tenures.

^q Thomas Hearne's Letter, affixed to the fifth volume of Leland's Itinerary.

^r His only son died without issue.

commonly called Father Noke, created esquire by King Henry VIII. He was of stature high and comely; and, for his excellence in artillery, made yeoman of the crown of England; which had, in his life, three wives, and by every of them some fruit and offspring: he deceased the 21st day of August, 1567, in the year of his age 87." Elizabeth, Lady Hoby, one of the learned daughters of Sir Anthony Coke, wrote a Latin epitaph on him; which, as being somewhat better than those written by her on the Hoby family at Bisham, is here inserted, as a specimen of that lady's composition:—

“ O multum delecte senex, pater atque vocatus,
Vel quia grandævus, vel quia probus eras.
Annos vixisti novies decem, atque satelles
Fidus eras regum, fidus erasque tuis:
Jam fatis functus valeas, sed tu Deus alme
Sic mihi concedas vivere, sic que mori.”

In the chancel is the monument of William Throckmorton, warden of the college of Shottesbroke, who died in 1535: his effigies, in alabaster, less than the life, lies within an oblong stone, hollowed out for its reception. On the floor are some brass figures, under rich Gothic canopies; the inscriptions are gone. There are in the chancel, also, several memorials for the family of Cherry, and the monument of the learned Henry Dodwell, some time Camden professor of history, at Oxford; a very able chronologist and historian. His principal work, “*De Cyclis Veterum*,” was written at Shottesbroke: his epitaph, written by Dr. Friend, head master of Westminster school, is printed in the *Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica*.

In the church-yard is the tomb of Francis Cherry esq. the friend of Dodwell, and the patron of Thomas Hearne. It has only the following inscription: “*Hic jacet Peccatorum maximus. Obiit anno dom. 1713, Sept. 13, Anno ætatis 48.*”

Mr. Vanfittart is impropiator of the great tithes, formerly belonging to the college, and patron of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Reading. It is annexed to White-Waltham.

SHRIVENHAM lies five miles to the south-west of Faringdon, and gives name to the hundred in which it is situated. It is remarkable, that this place has escaped the notice of Camden, and all his editors, nor is any mention of it to be found in Ashmole's Collections, or in the *Magna Britannia*: it has been, nevertheless, a place of considerable note from an early period. In 1257, William de Valence had a charter for a Thursday's market here, and an annual fair at the festival of St. Mary

Magdalen^a, which were confirmed by another charter in 1383^c. The market and fair have been long discontinued.

The principal manor of Shrivenham, which, in succeeding times, after it became the property of the Earls of Shrewsbury, was distinguished by the name of Shrivenham-Salop, was granted by King John to Geoffrey, Earl of Perch^b, whose son and successor, Thomas, was slain in 1217, fighting on the side of the French, at the siege of Lincoln. His lands being forfeited, the manor of Shrivenham was successively granted, within a very short time, to Henry de Turbeville^x and Robert de Brus^y; but the bishop of Chalons coming over to England, claimed it, as heir to the last earl, and sold his right in it to William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, and William Longespee, Earl of Salisbury^z. Ela, Countess of Salisbury, had livery of her husband's right in this manor, in 1226^a; notwithstanding which, it was seized by the crown the same year^b; and, in 1228, the manor was confirmed to William Marshall^c; from whom it passed, successively, by heirs female, to the Valences, Earls of Pembroke; the Comyns, of Badenagh; and the Talbots, Earls of Shrewsbury^d; by one of whom this manor was sold to Sir Thomas Fettiplace^e: in 1589, Sir Thomas Unton purchased it of Befils Fettiplace; and dying in 1596, without issue, the reversion, after the death of his widow, was sold by Sir John Wentworth, who married one of his sisters, to Dame Dorothy Moor; and by her, in 1624, to the family of Rolte, who had been a considerable time proprietors of Shrivenham-Claycourt^f, being one of the manors into which this parish was, at an early period, divided, and to each of which a share of the hundred was annexed. In the latter end of Henry III's reign, William de Valence, Joan de Champernon, and Thomas de Alta Ripa, or Hawtrey, held these three manors^g: in the reign of Edward II. they were held by Aylmer de Valence, John de Wilington, and Thomas de Hawtrey. The manor belonging to the Hawtreys must have been Claycourt, which passed afterwards to the Beckinghams^h and Roltes. The third manor, called Shrivenham-Stalpits, passed, after the death of Ralph, Lord Wilington, about the year 1399, by a female heir, to the Beaumontsⁱ, and was afterwards in the Courneys, Earls of Devon, one of whom sold it to Sir Thomas Unton, of Wadley^k, father of Sir Alexander, who died in 1547: it was purchased of the Untons, by Sir William Effex, who, by marriage with the heiress of Rogers^l, had inherited the ancient manor and seat of Becket.

^a Cart. 41 Hen. III.
the first Lord Barrington.

^b Pat. 6 Rich. II.
^x Pat. 1 Hen. III.

^y Papers relating to the manor, collected by
Cl. 2 Hen. III. ^z Barrington Papers.

^a Cl. 10 Hen. III.

^b Ibid.

^c Barrington Papers.

^d Dugdale.

^e Barrington Papers.

^f Esch. Eliz.

^g Barrington Papers.

^h Esch. Hen. VIII.

ⁱ See Esch. 20 Rich. II. and Esch. 2 Hen. VI.

^k Barrington Papers.

^l Berkshire Pedigrees in the British Museum.

At the time of the Norman survey, Becket, or as it was then written, Becote, belonged to the Earl of Evreux; it was not long afterwards in the crown, and became for some time one of the royal palaces. King John occasionally resided there, as appears by a mandate to the Sheriff of Oxfordshire, signed by the king at Becket, in the 7th year of his reign. In the reign of Edward III. this manor was in the family of Becote or Becket^m, who held lands in Shrivenham, by the service of coming before the king, whenever in his progress he should pass by Fowyeare's-Mill bridge, in Shrivenham, showing him two white capons, and addressing him with the following singular speech, "*Ecce Domine istos duos Capones quos alias habebitis sed non nunc*." The manor of Becket was afterwards in the Shottesbokes, from whom it passed by a female heir to the family of Rogers°. Sir William Essex, a descendant of Sir William above-mentioned, was created a baronet in 1612, being described of Becket, which in 1621 he sold, together with the manor of Shrivenham-Stalpits, to Roger Glover esq. In 1632, Sir Henry Marten, judge advocate, purchased both these estates of Mr. Glover and his son, and in 1637, the manors of Shrivenham-Salop, and Shrivenham-Claycourt of the Roltes. In 1652, his son, Harry Marten the regicide, who squandered away the large fortune which his learned father had acquired by his professional labours, sold all these manors to Sir George Pratt bart. who, in 1655, conveyed them to Sir John Pettus and Thomas Hufley, trustees, as it appears, of John Wildman esq. alderman of London, who, at the Revolution, was knighted and made post-master general; his son bequeathed them to his adopted heir, John Shute esq. who afterwards took the name of Barrington, and, in 1720, was created Viscount Barrington of the kingdom of Ireland. All the above manors, together with the hundred of Shrivenham, are now vested in the Hon. Shute Barrington, lord bishop of Durham, and other trustees under the will of William Lord Barrington, who died in 1793. Becket-house, the seat of this noble family, is at present in the occupation of Barrington Price esq. it is about to be entirely new modelled in the Gothic style, after designs made for that purpose by Mr. Atkinson.

The manor of West-mill, in this parish, belonged for several years to the Wiloughbys of Bishopstone, in Wiltshire, of whom it was purchased by the late Lord Holland, and is now the property of his son, the present lord.

The parish church, a large and handsome structure, exhibits in its external appearance the later style of Gothic architecture. Within is a double row of circular columns and arches, extending the whole length of the buildings, and

^m Esch. Edw. III.

ⁿ "Behold my Lord these two capons, which you shall have another time, but not now. Harleian MSS. No. 2087, p. 177.

^o Berkshire Pedigrees.

forming aisles both for the nave and chancel; the tower which is in the centre, is supported by four pointed arches. In the chancel are the monuments of Sir John Wildman, of Becket-house; John Wildman esq. his son; the first Viscount Barrington; and his son, the second Viscount. Sir John Wildman, who was alderman of London, and post-master general, died in 1693: he directed by his will, "that if his executors should think fit there should be some stone of small price set near his ashes, to signify, without foolish flattery, to his posterity, that in that age lived a man who spent the best part of his days in prisons, without crimes, being conscious of no offence towards man, for that he so loved his God that he could serve no man's will, and wished the liberty and happiness of his country, and of all mankind." John Wildman the son, shewed an eminent degree of filial piety, by preferring "confinement for many years with his father, who was a prisoner of state in the isle of Scilly, in the reign of King Charles II. to the full enjoyment of his liberty. He always approved of the Roman method of adoption, and followed it himself, by appointing John Shute esq. of the Inner-Temple, noways allied to him, to succeed to his estates." Mr. Wildman died in 1710; his adopted heir, who was of an ancient family settled in the counties of Cambridge and Leicester, afterwards became heir also to Francis Barrington esq. of Tofts, in consequence of which he took the name and arms of that family, by act of parliament in 1716. Mr. Barrington distinguished himself, both as a politician and a theological writer, his tenets being those of the Presbyterian dissenters: in 1720 he was created a peer, by the title of Baron Barrington, of Newcastle, and Viscount Barrington of Ardglass, in Ireland. This accomplished nobleman died at his seat at Becket, in 1734; his eldest son succeeded him in the title; his younger sons (of whom the bishop of Durham is the only survivor) attained to some of the first situations in the church, the army, the navy, and the law. Lord Barrington, the elder son, lies buried in the chancel, at Shrivenham, where is the following inscription to his memory: "In the south-eastern part of the chancel are deposited the remains of William Wildman, Viscount Barrington, born Jan. 15, 1717, died February 1, 1793. His strong discriminating understanding, his active talents, and unremitting assiduity in public business, rendered him early conspicuous in the House of Commons, of which he was 39 years uninterruptedly a member. During 34 years of that period, under the reigns of George II. and III. (two princes, whose confidence he enjoyed,) he served the crown with inflexible integrity, high honour, and distinguished abilities in the offices of secretary of the admiralty, master of the great wardrobe, secretary at war, chancellor of the exchequer, and treasurer

* See the epitaph.

* Ibid.

of the navy. In 1778, he retired from parliament, and public employment, to private life, in full possession of his mental and bodily powers, and in the highest merited favour with his sovereign. The candour of his mind, the soundness of his judgment, his accurate knowledge of mankind, and the urbanity of his manners, made him the delight of every society in which he lived. His zeal to promote the public good, his wish to diffuse happiness to all around him, his benevolence which flowed from the heart, his kindness to the tenants and poor of his estates, and his affection to his family, secured to his character an esteem, attachment, veneration, and love, which it has been the lot of few to experience. This monument is erected to his memory by his three surviving brothers, to whom he was the best of fathers and of friends." Two of Lord Barrington's brothers, Daines and Samuel, are since dead: the honourable Daines Barrington, formerly one of his Majesty's counsel, and one of the justices of the great Sessions for North-Wales, died March 14, 1800, and lies buried in the Temple church, where is a tablet to his memory: he was author of several ingenious treatises on antiquarian and other subjects. The honourable Samuel Barrington, admiral of the white, who died August 16, 1800, distinguished himself by his gallant behaviour as a captain in the wars of 1741 and 1756, particularly by the capture of the Count de Florentine, a French ship of 60 guns, the flag of which still remains in the chancel of Shrivenham church. He gained immortal honour by his repulse of a very superior force of the enemy at St. Lucie, when he had the command of a fleet in the West-Indies in 1779. The admiral lies buried in the family vault at Shrivenham, where a monument has been lately erected to his memory, with the following inscription. The verses are from the pen of Mrs. Hannah More.

" Sacred to the memory of the honourable Samuel Barrington, admiral of the white, and general of marines, born February 15, 1730, died August 16, 1800."

" Here rests the Hero, who, in glory's page,
Wrote his fair deeds for more than half an age.
Here rests the Patriot, who for England's good,
Each toil encountered, and each clime withstood;
Here rests the Christian, his the loftier theme,
To seize the conquest, yet renounce the fame.
He, when his arm St. Lucia's trophies boasts,
Ascribes the glory to the Lord of Hosts;
And when the harder task remain'd behind
The passive courage and the will resign'd,
Patient the veteran victor yields his breath
Secure in him who conquered sin and death."

In

In the chancel at Shrivenham are memorials also for the family of Blagrave, of Watchfield, in this parish. In the east window are the arms of the abbey of Cirencester, impaling those of John Hakeborne, the last abbot; Pleydell grantee of the rectory, impaling Ayshcombe; and Bouverie, Earl of Radnor (with quarterings): these coats, with the figure of an abbot, in stained glass, were put up by the present earl of Radnor, impropiator of the great tithes of this parish, which (having belonged formerly to the abbot and convent of Cirencester), he inherited from the family of Pleydell. The vicarage is in the deanery of Abingdon, and in the patronage of the crown.

There was a chantry in Shrivenham church, founded and endowed by John de Burghton, and Agnes his wife, in 1336^r.

The principal hamlets in this parish, are *Bourton*, anciently *Burghton*; *Watchfield*, anciently *Wachenesfield*, *Longcot*, and *Farnham* or *Fearnham*, all of which support their own poor. Bourton and Watchfield have been inclosed, by an act of parliament, passed in 1789, when allotments of land were assigned to Lord Radnor, as impropiator, and to the vicar; at Longcot is a chapel of ease, the chapel of Watchfield was pulled down about the year 1770. The hamlet of Longcot has been inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1796, when allotments of land were assigned to William Kemeys esq. and Mary his wife, and to Mrs. Anne Furye, as impropiators of tithes in East-end and West-end tithings, and an allotment to the vicar of Shrivenham.

The manor of *Watchfield* belonged to the abbot and convent of Abingdon, so early as the time of King Kenulf^r; after the reformation, it was for a considerable time in the family of Willoughby, of whom it was purchased by Henry Lord Holland. By a subsequent purchase it became the property of Lord Barrington, and now forms part of the Shrivenham estate. The manor of *Fearnham*, about the middle of the 16th century, was in the Windfords^r, afterwards in the Fettiplaces^r; and is now the property of Mrs. Ann Furye, relict of the late Col. Furye, in whose family it had been a considerable time.

SPARSHOLT, or SPERSHOLT, in the hundred of Wanting and deanery of Abingdon, lies four miles west of the town of Wantage. The manor is said to have been given by King Henry I. to the family of Achard^{*}. It appears on record, that they were in possession of it in 1299^r, from them it passed by female heirs to the De la Mares and Forsters. Sir William Forster levied a fine of this manor in

^r Pat. 10 Edw. III.

^r Dugdale.

^r Collins's Peerage.

^r Esch. Car. I.

^{*} Leland's Itinerary, vol. VI. p. 28.

^r Esch. 27 Edw. I.

1607²; soon after this, Sparsholt became the seat of a branch of the Craven family: Anthony Craven esq. of Sparsholt, who was created a baronet in 1661, died in 1670 without issue. The manor of Sparsholt, has since been in the families of Palmer and Richmond, the late general Gabbit became possessed of it by his marriage with Miss Richmond: it now belongs to Thomas Spiers Gabbit esq. the manor-house is occupied by a tenant.

In the chancel of the parish church is the tomb of a crusader; in the south transept are some ancient monuments supposed to be of the Achards: the effigies of a knight in wood lies on the floor; this is described by Ashmole, as having been placed on an ancient altar-tomb, in the middle of the chapel. In the south wall, under ogee arches, are two altar tombs, on which lie two female figures in wood, with veils and wimples, one of which Ashmole has erroneously described as a man. Leland, in his Itinerary, says, "at Sparshold lyeth one of the Achards, honorably buried in a chapel annexid, hard to the side of the parochie churche, having a chauntry, and on eche side of him lyeth a wife of his. There is a commune saying, that the one of them was a duches, and the other a countes, but this saying hath little apparaunce of truthe." In the same chapel is the monument of Sir George Hyde, K. B. who died in 1625, a descendant of the Hydcs of Denchworth, who removed from that place to Kingston-Lisle, in this parish: the family is now extinct.

The great tithes of Sparsholt are vested in the provost and scholars of Queen's College, in Oxford, who are patrons of the vicarage. The rectory and advowson are said to have been purchased of the Achards, by Robert Eglesfield, founder of that college, and made part of its endowment^a. Sparsholt, and the hamlet of *Westcote*, were inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1800: the lands were not exonerated from tithes.

The record of Domesday mentions a manor in *Sperholt*, belonging to the monastery of Abingdon; and states, that the men of the county said, that Edric gave it to his son, a monk at Abingdon, for life, and that they did not know that it ever belonged to the abbey, but the abbot claimed it as given to the convent in the reign of Edward the Confessor, and showed the king's charter with his seal, and the signatures of all the monks.

Kingston-Lisle, a hamlet of this parish, about a mile and a half west of Sparsholt, has a chapel of ease. The manor was the property and seat of the

^a Papers belonging to Mr. Congreve, of Aldermaston.
Rowe Mores's Queries in Bib. Top. Brit.—Bacon's Liber Regis describes the rectory as having been appropriated to the abbot and convent of Abingdon.

^a Mr. Noble's answer to Mr.

ancient and noble family of De Infula, or De Lisle. Alice De Lisle had the king's licence for inclosing a park here, in 1336^b. John Talbot, the great Earl of Shrewsbury, having married Margaret, one of the daughters and coheirs of Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, by the only daughter and heir of Thomas Lord Berkeley, who had married the heiress of the Lisles, his eldest son was, in 1444, created Baron Lisle, and in 1452, Viscount Lisle. The title of Baron Lisle has passed by heirs female, but not without attainders and revivals, through the families of Grey, Dudley, and Sidney; it finally became extinct in 1743. The manor of Kingston-Lisle was for many years in the Hydes; it was purchased of this family, on or about the year 1750, by Abraham Atkins esq. who bequeathed it to his nephew Edwin Martin, father of Abraham Edwin Martin Atkins esq. the present proprietor: Mr. Atkins, who has a seat at Kingston-Lisle, is proprietor also of the manors of East-Manton and Westcote. East-Manton belonged to the Forsters; Westcote was formerly in the Pleydells, and afterwards the property of Lord Downe, of whom it was purchased by Abraham Atkins, above-mentioned. *Farlow* or *Fawler*, within the manor of Kingston-Lisle, is a hamlet of this parish, at which there was formerly a chapel of ease, dedicated to St. James: it has been many years gone to decay, and a chapel at Kingston-Lisle has been built in lieu of it. The hamlets of *Kingston-Lisle* and *Fawler* have been inclosed, by an act of parliament, passed in 1777, under which a great part of the neighbouring parish of Uffington was also inclosed. It appears that the tithes of these hamlets were then the subject of litigation, they were not to be affected by the act, unless the proprietors requested an allotment. Lord Craven has a large estate at Kingston-Lisle, the mansion belonging to which is at present in the tenure of Edward Thornhill esq.

SPEEN or SPENE, supposed by most writers to have been the Roman *Spinæ*, is situated partly within the hundred of Faircross, and partly within that of Kentbury-Eagle, about a mile to the north-west of Newbury. It had formerly a market on Mondays, which was granted in 1218 to William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke^c.

Spene was one of the principal scenes of action, in the second battle of Newbury; Prince Maurice's foot, and some horse, were quartered there at the beginning of the engagement, in the course of which, the village was taken by the opposite party^d.

From a very early period, there were two principal manors in this parish, Church-Spene and Wood-Spene. Church-Spene, when the Norman Survey was taken, belonged to Humphrey Vis de Lou; in the 13th century, it was in the Despensers^e;

^b Cart. 10 Edw. III.

^c Cl. 2 Hen. III.

^d Clarendon.

^e Esch. Edw. I.

afterwards, successively in the families of Elford and Mounteneye^f. In 1400, this manor was granted to John Champe^g, who died seised of it in 1441^h. In the reign of Edward IV. it was in the family of Rogersⁱ, from whom it passed, by female descent, to Sir William Effex, who with his son gave it to King Henry VIII. in 1543.

The manor of Wood-Spene belonged to the Marshalls, Earls of Pembroke; from them it descended with other estates, and the earl marshal's staff, to Thomas Brotherton Earl of Norfolk, who gave it to King Edward III. in 1332^k. The same year the king granted it to his relation William de Bohun, afterwards Earl of Northampton^l. On a partition of the estates of the Bohuns, it came again to the crown, but was given in 1483, by King Richard III. to Edward Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, as being descended from that family^m: on the duke's attainder, it became again vested in the crown.

This manor was granted in 1565, to John Baptist de Castillon: his son, Sir Francis, sold it in 1630, to the trustees of Sir William Craven, from whom it descended to the present proprietor, the Earl of Craven.

In the parish church is an altar tomb, with the effigies in armour of John Baptist Castillon esq. above-mentioned, a Piedmontese who died in 1597; and the monument of Dame Elizabeth Castillon, wife of his son Sir Francis, who died in 1603. Her effigies is represented habited in a fardingale, and flowered gown, with a veil which almost covers the body. There are some memorials also for the Craven family.

The great tithes of Spene, which were given by William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, to the knights hospitallers, are now appropriated to the see of Salisbury: the bishop is patron of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Newbury. Spene-moor or mead, in this parish, was inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1737. The remainder of the parish, excepting the hamlet of *Bagnor*, has been since inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1779. Allotments of land were assigned to the impropiator, and to the vicar; and to the latter, a rent in lieu of the tithes of old inclosures.

Speenhamland, a tithing of this parish lies on the road from London to Bath, contiguous to the town of Newbury, and appears to be part of its suburbs. The manor was anciently in the Clares, Earls of Gloucesterⁿ, from whom it passed successively by female heirs, to the Despencers, Beauchamps, and Nevilles. Having been many years in the crown, it was granted by Queen Elizabeth to Thomas Crompton^o.

^f Esch. Edw. III. and Ric. II. ^g Pat. 1 Hen. IV. ^h Esch. Hen. VI. ⁱ Esch. 11 Edw. IV.

^k Cl. 6 Edw. III.

^l Pat. 6 Edw. III.

^m Dugdale's, Baronage.

ⁿ Esch. Edw. I.

^o Records in the augmentation office.

it afterwards became the property of the Dolmans; and, having passed by the same title as the neighbouring manor of Shaw, belongs now to Sir Joseph Andrews bart.

Mrs. Anne Watts, in the year 1664, founded an alms-house, at Speenhamland, for two poor widows, who receive about 2s. a-week each.

Marsh-Benham, Benham-Valence, and *Bagnor*, are in this parish. The manor of Benham-Valence, which at an earlier period had been in the families of Camvil and Wake, took its name from William de Valence, Earl of Pembroke, to whom King Henry III. granted it in 1250^p. In the year 1340, it passed with the title of Earl of Pembroke, by female descent, to Laurence, Lord Hastings^q: Sir William Effex, who acquired it by marriage with the heiress of Rogers, gave the manor and park to King Henry VIII. in 1542^r. It is probable that they were not long afterwards granted to Sir Walter Mildmay; for it appears that he surrendered them to the crown in 1551^s. Queen Elizabeth gave Benham-Valence, with Wood-Spene, to John Baptist de Castillon in 1565, for his faithful services to her in her troubles^t. His son, Sir Francis, sold it in 1630, to the ancestors of the present proprietor, the Earl of Craven. This manor was held by grant-serjeanty, by the service of keeping the door of the king's chamber^u.

Benham-Place, a villa of the late Lord Craven's, is now the seat of their Serene Highnesses, the Margrave and Margravine of Anspach. The Margravine, who was relict of Lord Craven, purchased it a few years ago for her son, the Earl. The house, an elegant structure of the Ionic order, was completed in the year 1775; it was built by Brown, under the direction of Lady Craven. Benham-Place is pleasantly situated between the Bath road, and the Kennet, which supplies a fine sheet of water in front of the house. The lodges, at the eastern and western extremities of the park, were built not long ago by the Margravine.

The manor of Bagnor, which belonged to the priory of Poghly, is now vested in the dean and chapter of Westminster, to whom it was given by King Henry VIII. in exchange for some lands, which now form part of St James's park.

STANFORD, in the hundred of Ganfield, sometimes called *Stanford* in the *Vale*, is situated in the vale of White Horse, on the road from Faringdon to Wantage, four miles from the former, and five from the latter: it had formerly a market on Thursdays, long discontinued, granted by a charter of Henry III. in 1230, together with a fair on the festival of St. Dionysius, to the family of Ferrars, Earl of Derby^x, who from the time of the conquest, had been in possession of the manor. The estates

^p Cart. 35 Hen. III. ^q Esch. Hen. IV. &c. and Dugdale's Baronage.
mentation office. ^r Ibid. ^s Camden. ^t Blount's tenures.

^u Records in the aug-
^x Cart. 14 Hen. III.
belonging

belonging to this earldom were all forfeited in 1266²; and it is supposed that the manor of Stanford was granted to the Clares, Earls of Gloucester, who were possessed of it in 1290³. From them it passed, by heirs female, to the Despencers, Beauchamps, and Nevilles; and became vested in the crown by the marriage of Anne Neville, daughter of the Earl of Warwick, with the duke of Gloucester, afterwards King Richard III. In the reign of Henry VIII. it was in the family of Fettiplace^b, who continued to possess it for a considerable time. This manor is now the property of Edward Loveden Loveden esq. who purchased it, about the year 1790, of the late Hervey Aston esq. and the Rev. Mr. Hatch, who held it in moieties. The moiety which belonged to Mr. Hatch, descended to him from his grandfather, Mr. Avery Tyrrell, of Stanford. Mr. Worthington, lord of the manor and hundred of Wantage, holds a court here, as lord paramount.

The parish church is a handsome Gothic building; the tower is one of the most distinguished objects in the vale. The cognizances of the rose and fetlock, impaling the ragged staff on the south porch, seem to denote that it was built about the time of the match of Lady Anne Neville with the Duke of Gloucester. In the chancel windows, are the arms of Clare, Earl of Gloucester, and Zouch. The only monument deserving of notice, is that of one of the Knolles family, a nephew of the first Earl of Banbury, who died in 1640. The dean and chapter of Westminster have the great tithes of this parish, and are patrons of the vicarage which is in the deanery of Abingdon. The parish of Stanford has been inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1783; the lands were not exonerated from tithes. Joseph Pitt esq. of Cirencester, is lessee of the great tithes under the church of Westminster.

STANFORD-DINGLEY, in the hundred of Faircross, lies about nine miles to the north-east of Newbury, and about 11 to the west of Reading. The editor of Ashmole's Collections has confounded the history of this place with that of Standford in the vale. The manor of Stanford, in the hundred of Faircross, belonged to the Barons Somery; the Punchardons, who held it under them^c, became afterwards possessed of the fee, in which they were succeeded by the family of Stokes^d. About the year 1700, it belonged to the Hillefdons; from whom it passed by purchase to its late owner Mr. Barker: the present proprietor is Mrs. Cornish.

Rushdens, an ancient mansion in this parish, was for more than two centuries a seat of the Lyfords. The heiress of this family married Mr. Granger, who was possessed of it in 1759^e: it is now the property of Mr. Matthews.

² Dugdale.
I. and Edw. II.
Bib. Top. Brit.

³ Esch. Edw. I.

^d Esch. Edw. II.—Hen. VI.

^b Will of Sir Thomas Fettiplace, 1524.

^c Esch. Edw.

^e Answer to Mr. R. Mores's queries in

In the parish church is a brass plate, with a memorial of Margaret, the wife of William Dyneley, (esquire of the body to King Henry VIII.) who died in 1444. It seems not improbable that the Dyneleys succeeded the family of Stokes in the manor, and gave their name, since corrupted to Dingley, to the village: in all very ancient records it is called Stanford, without any addition.

The Rev. Richard Valpy, D.D. master of Reading school, is patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Newbury.

STEVENTON, in the hundred of Ock, lies about four miles, nearly to the south of Abingdon. At this place was an alien priory of black monks, a cell to the abbey of Bec Harlewin in Normandy, to which monastery the manor had been given by King Henry I. The alien priories having been suppressed during the war with France, in the reign of king Edward the III. the abbey of Bec-Harlewin, sold this manor with the advowson of the church to Sir Hugh Calveley, whose trustees conveyed it, in 1393, to John bishop of Salisbury, and Roger Walden^f, supposed to have been trustees for the crown, as the manor was soon afterwards in the hands of the king, who granted it to the abbot and convent of Westminster^g; it now belongs to the dean and chapter of that church, who are impropiators also of the great tithes, and patrons of the vicarage. Steventon lies within the deanery of Abingdon: in the church are some memorials of the family of Wiseman, who had a seat in this parish, and another at Sparsholt-court in the neighbourhood.

STRATFIELD-MORTIMER, in the hundred of Theale, lies seven miles to the south-west of Reading, on the borders of Hampshire, into which county the parish extends. The manor was in the Mortimer family, from the time of the conquest till the death of Edmund Mortimer, Earl of March, in 1425^h, when it devolved to his cousin and heir, Richard, Duke of York, father of King Edward IV. and thus became vested in the crown. In 1495, it was in jointure to the Queen of King Henry VII.ⁱ In 1538, Mortimer great park was leased, for 21 years, to William, Marquis of Winchester, and the lease was renewed in 1551^k. Queen Elizabeth, in 1564, granted the manor, with the great and little park, to Henry, Lord Hunfdon, who sold them the same year to the Marquis of Winchester. This estate has descended from the noble family of Pawlet to the present proprietor, Richard Benyon esq. M. P. in the same manner as Englefield^l.

The manor of Wokefield, anciently called Hocfelle, and now Oakfield, was, at the time of the Norman-Survey, in the hands of the crown, as an appendage to

^f Pat. 17 Rich. II. p. 2.

^g Tanner.

^h Esch. 3 Hen. VI.

ⁱ Rolls of Parliament.

^k Mr. Benyon's Papers.

^l See p. 275.

Aldermaston : it was afterwards held, with Stratfield, by the Mortimers, and was, with that manor, in jointure to the Queen of King Henry VII. in 1495^m. It was settled by King Henry VIII. on his last queen, Catherine Parr. After this it became, by purchase, the property of the great lawyer, Serjeant Plowden^a, who, according to Anthony Wood, had "a fair estate," in the adjoining parish of Burghfield, of which he died possessed in 1584. This manor was sold, in 1626, by Francis Plowden esq. to Peter Weaver, whose grandson, by his only daughter, was Francis Parry, envoy to Portugal, in the reign of King Charles II. Three-fourths of the manor of Oakfield were purchased by the Earl of Uxbridge, in 1742, of Mr. Parry's representatives ; and by his grandson, the second earl, sold to the late Bernard Brocas esq. whose widow is the present proprietor. The remaining fourth is now the property of the Rev. Dr. Morgan, prebendary of Gloucester, and vicar of Stratfield-Mortimer, by inheritance from his mother, one of the sisters and co-heirs of Charles Parry esq. who died in 1740.

John Dabridgecourt, and Agnes his wife, were possessed of an estate in this parish, called, in a record of 1432^o, the manor of Stratfield-Mortimer, which descended to the posterity of William Brocas esq. second husband of Agnes Dabridgecourt, and continued in their possession in 1485^p.

The abbot and convent of Reading had a manor in this parish, which was granted, in 1550, to John Dudley, Earl of Warwick. This manor was afterwards in the noble family of Lucas, and passed, by the marriage of Mary, only daughter of John, Lord Lucas, in 1662, to Anthony, Earl of Kent. In 1724, the manor and estate were sold, piece-meal, by his son, the duke. The greater part is now the property of Mrs. Anne Bever.

In the chancel of the parish church is a window of stained glass, put together by Dr. Bever, the late vicar : in the centre is a portrait of William of Wickham, Bishop of Winchester. The great tithes are appropriated to Eton College : the provost and fellows are patrons of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Reading : Mrs. Anne Bever is lessee under the college.

Mortimer-heath, containing 1500 acres, was inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1802 : an allotment of 100 acres was assigned to the poor for fuel : the inclosed lands are subject to tithes : an allotment was reserved for holding Mortimer fair. There are two annual fairs held in the parish, April 27th and November 6th. The remainder of the parish, excepting the tithing of Wokefield, had been inclosed by a former act.

^a Rolls of Parliament.

^p Esch.

^a From the information of Dr. Morgan.

^p Esch. 10 Hen. VI.

STREATLY, in the hundred of Moreton, lies by the Thames side, about six miles south of Wallingford, on the road to Reading. It is supposed to have taken its name from being situated on the ancient Ichnield-Street, or Ickleton-Way, as it is here called, which crosses the Thames from this place to Goring, in Oxfordshire. The manor was anciently in the Mohuns^a, afterwards in the De la Polès, Dukes of Suffolk^r; at a later period in the Sambourns: Sir Henry Sambourn was lord of the manor in 1644. Sir John Rush had a seat here, and a moiety of the manor, about the middle of the last century. The present proprietor of the manor, Richard Palmer esq. of Holme-park, near Sunning, purchased one moiety of the Rush family, and the other of several proprietors, among whom it was divided. The Bishop of Salisbury is patron of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Wallingford. The great tithes, formerly appropriated to the priory of Hurley, are now annexed to the fee of Salisbury. Southridge and Westridge are in this parish.

SULHAM, in the hundred of Theale, lies about six miles nearly west of Reading, between the Bath and Wallingford roads. The manor belonged anciently to the family of St. Philibert^s, afterwards to the Carews: it is probable, that it passed from them to their representatives, the Iwarbys^r and St. Johns, who inherited the neighbouring manor of Purley. It is now the property of the Rev. Dr. Wilder, in whose family it has been for a considerable time. Dr. Wilder is the present incumbent, and patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Reading.

SULHAMSTED-ABBOTS, or ABBAS, in the hundred of Theale, called, in old deeds, Suthampsted and Chilhampted, lies about six miles nearly to the south of Reading. The manor, which had belonged to the abbot and convent of Reading, was granted, in 1541, to Sir John Williamsⁿ, from whom it passed, by female heirs, to the families of Norris and Bertie. In the early part of the last century, it was purchased of one of the Earls of Abingdon, by Daniel May esq. whose son gave it to his nephew, John Thoyts esq. It is now the property and seat of William Thoyts esq. his son.

The manor of the liberty of Griesley, or Greafely, in this parish, belonged also to the abbot and convent of Reading. In 1541, being then called the manor of Greyshall, it was granted to Sir John Williams; and having descended, with Sulhamsted-Abbotts, by female heirs, to the noble family of Bertie, was purchased of

^a Nomina Villarum, No. 6281. Harl. MSS. Brit. Mus.

^r Esch. Hen. VI.

^s Esch. Edw. I.—Edw. III. ⁿ See Esch. 6 Edw. IV.

ⁿ Records in the Augmentation Office.

the Earl of Abingdon, by John James esq. of Denford: it is now the property of Sir Walter James James bart.* The family of James resided at Griesley, long before they acquired this manor; Walter, the son of Walter James, was baptised at Sulhamsted, in 1630, as appears by the parish register.

The family of Perkins, who were settled at Ufton, had formerly an estate in this parish, called the manor of Faxes-Court†.

Sulhamsted-Abbots, together with the neighbouring parish of Sulhamsted-Bannister, form now one consolidated rectory, in the deanery of Reading, of which the provost and scholars of Queen's College, in Oxford, are patrons. The advowson of Sulhamsted-Abbots was purchased by the college of Lord Norris, about the year 1610‡. The advowson of Sulhamsted-Bannister was given to the priory of Sherbourn, about the year 1364, by John Bannister; and was granted, by King Edward IV. to Queen's College, with that priory, and its estates. The lands of the two Sulhamsteds are much intermixed with each other, and with those of the adjoining parishes.

SULHAMSTED-BANNISTER lies about five miles to the south-west of Reading. The manor belonged anciently to the family of Bannister^a, from whom it took its additional name, and afterwards, successively, to the De la Mares^b and Forsters. Within the last century, this manor has been in the families of Ball, Jennings, and Stephens; it was purchased of the latter, in 1774, by William Thoyts esq. grandfather of the present proprietor. Samuel Morland, son of the Rev. Thomas Morland, rector of the Sulhamsteds, was created a baronet by King Charles II. in 1660, as a reward for several important discoveries, which he had made to that monarch at Brussels: he had been under secretary to Thurloe, and had been employed by Cromwell, in various embassies: in his patent of creation, he was described as of Sulhamsted-Bannister, but we have not been able to learn whether he was possessed of the manor, or any considerable property in the parish. It was this baronet, and not his son, as Granger erroneously supposes, who distinguished himself by his skill in mechanics, and was appointed master of the mechanics to King Charles II. he died in 1695, at the age of 82^c, having so far outlived his faculties, that he was unable to sign his name to the will, by which he disinherited his only son of the same name, who was the second and last baronet of the family, and bequeathed the whole of his property to Mrs. Zenobia Hough.

* See p. 306. † Esch. Edw. IV. ‡ Answers to Mr. Rowe Mores's Queries in Bib. Top. Brit.

^a Esch. Edw. III. ^b Esch. 46 Edw. III. ^c Le Neves MSS. in the Collection of Mr. John Nichols.

The parsonage house, which was formerly in Sulhamsted-Abbotts, near the church, was removed to its present situation in this parish, not far from the river Kennet, and the Bath road, by Mr. Halton, who was rector, in 1693^d. Sulhamsted-Ban- nister is in the hundred and deanery of Reading.

SUNNING, in the hundred of that name, lies on the banks of the Thames, about three miles nearly east of Reading, to the north of the London road. It has been said, that this place was a bishop's see, during the separation of Wiltshire, and, as some suppose, Berkshire, from the see of Sherbourn; but Bishop Tanner's editor, on the authority of William of Malmesbury, who expressly says, that Wiltshire only was separated from Sherbourn, is of opinion, that the bishops of the new see had no other seat than Ramsbury, until Bishop Herman removed to Old Sarum^e. It is certain, that the bishops of Salisbury held the manor of Sunning, at the time of the conquest, and that the manor house was, for some centuries afterwards, their occasional residence. In 1389, we are told, that the Bishop of Salisbury, being at his manor house, at Sunning, was informed of the secret practices of the Wickliffites^f. Isabel, Queen of King Richard II. resided at the bishop of Salisbury's manor place, at Sunning, during the interval between the deposition and death of that unfortunate monarch, who was then a prisoner at Pomfret^g: Bishop Nevil dates from Sunning, in 1436^h. In Leland's time there remained "a fair old house of stone, at Sonninge, by the Thamise ripe, longging to the bisshop of Saresbyri, and thereby a fair parke." In the year 1574, Edmund, bishop of Salisbury, gave the manor of Sunning to Queen Elizabeth, in exchange for estates in Dorsetshireⁱ. It was granted by King Charles I. in 1628, to Lawrence Halstead and Abraham Chamberlain: not long afterwards it came into the family of Rich, who settled at Sunning in or before the year 1650. Thomas Rich esq. who had been a great friend to the suffering clergy, and had entertained the deprived Bishop Brownrig under his roof at Sunning, during the greater part of Cromwell's protectorate^k, was created a baronet in 1660. The title became extinct in 1803, by the death of Sir Thomas Rich, admiral of the blue, who had sold the manor of Sunning, in 1795, to Richard Palmer esq. the present proprietor. Mr. Palmer has a very handsome seat, called Holme-park, which he began to build the year after he had purchased the manor.

^d From the information of Mr. Wilson, the present rector.

^e Notitia Monastica.

^f Holinshed.

^g Ibid.

^h Deed of Endowment of Coxwell Vicarage.

ⁱ From the information of Mr. Boucher, registrar of the diocese of Salisbury.

^k Biograph. Brit. article Brownrig.

The Survey of Domesday mentions two manors of *Herlei*, in the hundred of Charlton, and another manor of *Hurlei*, in the hundred of Reading, besides *Herlei*, in the hundred of Bernersh, (now Hurley,) between Maidenhead and Henley. The three former, it is probable, all apply to the Earleys, in this parish. The Erles, an ancient family, one of whom was knight of the shire, in the reign of Edward I. possessed one of these manors¹, from which they seem to have taken their name. In or about the year 1392, John Shelford, who became possessed of a life-interest in the manor of *Erlegb-Whyte-Knights*, by marrying the widow of Henry Aldryngton, purchased the inheritance^m. Being vested in the crown, in 1412, King Henry IV. granted it, with the custody of a free chapel there, which had belonged to the hospital of lepers at Reading, to John Bekeⁿ; Sir Thomas Beke died seised of it in 1547^o; it appears on record, that, some years before his death, he had dissolved the free chapel of *Arley-White-Knights*, without the king's leave^p. About the middle of the 17th century, if not before, Earley-White-Knights became the property and seat of a younger branch of the Englefield family, to whom the title of baronet afterwards devolved. It is now the country seat of the Marquis of Blandford, who purchased the house and manor of Sir Henry Charles Englefield, the present baronet; Sir Henry retains a considerable estate in the parish of Sunning.

The manor of Maiden-Earley, now the seat of Edward Golding esq. M. P. has, of late years, undergone frequent alienations; it was purchased by Mr. Golding, of William Matthew Birt esq. governor-general of the Leeward Islands.

Earley-Court, in this parish, having been formerly in the Hookes^q, and afterwards, for several years, in the Manleys, of Cheshire, was purchased of Sir John Powell Price, and his lady, in the year 1765, by the late John Bagnall esq. who died in 1802, leaving two daughters; one married to the Hon. Thomas Windsor; the other to the celebrated civilian, Sir William Scott, judge of the high court of Admiralty, who now resides at Earley-Court.

William Fettiplace esq. when he endowed a chantry, school, and alms-houses, at Childrey, in 1526, among other estates given to the provost and scholars of Queen's College, in Oxford, for their support, mentions some lands in Earley, and a free chapel of St. Bartholomew^r, which was situated at Earley-Court, and is said to have been a building, which is now the stable belonging to that mansion. Certain fields, lying in Earley, within the parish of Sunning, were inclosed by act of parliament, in 1742.

¹ Esch. Edw. II. and Edw. III.

^m Pat. 16 Rich. II.

ⁿ Pat. 14 Hen. IV.

^o Esch. Hen. VIII.

^p Coates's History of Reading, p. 278. note.

^q Monumental Inscriptions at Sunning, 1625, &c.

^r See his Deed in Bib. Top. Brit.

The manor of Bulmarsh, in this parish, belonged to the abbot and convent of Reading, and was granted, in 1546, to William Grey^{*}, whose widow is supposed to have brought it in marriage to John Blagrove, the father of the celebrated mathematician[†], who was born either at this place, or at Reading. Bulmarsh continued in his family till the death of the late George Blagrove, of whose executors it was purchased by the Right Hon. Henry Addington, now Lord Viscount Sidmouth, and president of the council, who had a seat here, called Woodley-Lodge, at which he resided in the summer season; whilst, during a period of 12 years, he filled the chair of the House of Commons, with so much honour to himself, and advantage to his country. When the duties of the more elevated station of prime minister, which he was called to fill in the year 1801, obliged him to reside nearer to London, he sold the manor of Bulmarsh and Woodley-House to Mr. James Wheeble, who is the present proprietor. Woodley-House was built by Mr. Wheeble's father; sold by him to Admiral, (now Lord,) Hotham; and by Admiral Hotham to Mr. Addington, now Lord Sidmouth.

In the parish church of Sunning are several memorials for the family of Barker, descended from William Barker esq. who was steward to the bishop of Salisbury, in the reign of Henry VIII.; the tomb of Lawrence Fytton esq. who was steward of the manor in 1434, being that of "one Fytton Esquire, in the presbitery," mentioned by Leland, still remains; but there are no vestiges of the tombs of "some vouesses", kinswomen of the bishop of Saresbyri," spoken of by the same author. In the south aisle are some memorials for the family of Rich. The monument of Sir Thomas Rich, the first baronet of that family, who died in 1667, is very heavy. There are memorials also for the families of Englefield, Blagrove, and Hooke. Between the body of the chancel and its north aisle, is an elegant pointed arch, very richly ornamented with figures of saints, &c.

In 1762, the late Mr. Palmer purchased a moiety of the impropriate parsonage and manor of the rectory, then held on lease under the dean of Salisbury, by the family of Rich; and ten years afterwards the other moiety, held jointly by Lord Macclesfield and Mr. Child. In 1773, the fee of the parsonage and rectorial manor, which, from time immemorial, had been annexed to the deanery of Salisbury, was vested, by act of parliament, in Mr. Palmer, subject to an annual payment to the dean of Salisbury, who has peculiar jurisdiction in the parish, and is patron of the vicarage. The parish of Sunning is very extensive, containing, according to Rocque's Survey, above 7000 acres, exclusive of that part which is within an insulated district of Wiltshire. Hurst, Ruscombe, and Sandhurst, are separate parishes, but their chapels are dependant on Sunning, as the mother church.

^{*} Coates's History of Reading, p. 264.

[†] Ibid. 265, 266.

^u Nuns.

SUNNINGHILL, in the hundred of Cookham, lies about six miles nearly to the south of Windsor.

In this parish, at a place called Bromehall, was a small convent of Benedictine nuns, founded before the reign of King John. In 1522, it was abandoned by the nuns who were then only two in number; and having been adjudged an escheat to the crown, was granted through the interest of Bishop Fisher, with all its appurtenances, (among which, were the rectory and advowson of Sunninghill,) to St. John's College, in Cambridge.

The manor of Sunninghill, in the reign of Edward III. belonged to the Sunninghills, who took their name from the village^x; it was afterwards in the family of Norris^y. Of late years it has undergone frequent alienations: the present proprietor, James Sibbald esq. purchased it of James Hartley esq. in 1787: Mr. Sibbald has an elegant modern mansion in this parish, called Selwood-park, pleasantly situated on the borders of Windsor-Forest.

Sunninghill-Park, now the seat of Jeremiah Crutchley esq. was formerly part of the royal demesnes; and is supposed to have been granted by King Charles I. to the family of Carey. Sir Thomas Draper of Sunninghill-Park, who was created a baronet in 1660, married an heiress of that family. Mr. Crutchley purchased it in 1769, of Thomas Draper Barber esq. grandson of Sir Thomas Draper.

In the parish church is a very ancient inscription on a square pillar, between the nave, and the chancel, commemorating the *obit* of Livingus, a priest. There are some memorials for the families of Buckworth, baronets, and Baber. Sunninghill is in the deanery of Reading.

In this parish is a chalybeate spring, called Sunninghill-Wells, adjoining to which is a room where public breakfasts are occasionally held.

SUNNINGWELL, in the hundred of Hormer, lies about three miles north of Abingdon. The manor was formerly parcel of the possessions of the abbot and convent of Abingdon; sometime after the reformation it belonged to the family of Baskerville, of whom it was purchased about the year 1720, by the Stonhouses; and is now, by inheritance in the female line^z, the property of Sir George Bowyer bart.

In the parish church is the monument of Hannibal Baskerville, lord of the manor, who died in 1668, and some memorials of Bishop Fell's family; that prelate was born at Longworth^a in this county; not at Sunningwell, as erroneously stated by Anthony Wood and others. Sir George Bowyer is patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Abingdon. The parish of Sunningwell *cum* Bayworth was inclosed by an act of parliament passed in 1723.

^x Esch. Edw. III. ^y Esch. Edw. IV. ^z See p. 327. ^a See the account of that parish.

Bayworth, is a considerable hamlet in this parish, which had a chapel of ease, now gone to decay : it was much resorted to for private marriages, before the marriage act. The manor of Bayworth was given to the abbot and convent of Abingdon in 1329^b ; and it has since passed with the manor of Sunningwell, being now the property of Sir George Bowyer bart.

At *Kennington*, a large hamlet or township, partly in this parish, and partly in that of Radley, was a chapel of ease which fell down not many years ago. The manor which belonged to the abbot and convent of Abingdon, was in 1631, in the family of Lyon^c : it is now the property of the Earl of Peterborough. The township of Kennington has been inclosed by an act of parliament passed in 1802 ; when an allotment of land was assigned to the rector of Sunningwell, in lieu of tithes.

Bagley-Wood, adjoining to this parish, where the president and scholars of St. John's College in Oxford have a manor, is extra parochial.

SUTTON-COURTNEY, or COURTENAY, in the hundred of Ock, lies about three miles nearly south of Abingdon. The manor belonged at a very early period to the abbot and convent of Abingdon : Rethunus the abbot gave it to Kenulf, king of the Mercians and West-Saxons, in exchange for the site of an ancient royal palace where the king's hounds and hawks were kept to the great annoyance of the convent^d. King Henry II. gave it to Reginald Courtenay^e, ancestor of the Earls of Devonshire, and of the present Viscount Courtenay. On the attainder of Thomas Courtenay, Earl of Devonshire, for being in arms against King Edward IV. at Towton field, this manor was granted in 1462 to Sir Walter Devereux^f. After this it was restored to the Courtenays, and having been again forfeited to the crown by the attainder of Henry Courtenay Marquis of Exeter, was leased by Philip and Mary to Elizabeth, Lady Mafon, and by Queen Elizabeth in 1591, to Sir Richard Hyde for 60 years^g. The fee was granted by King Charles the First, to certain citizens of London, of whom it was purchased by the first Lord Craven : it is now the property of his descendant, William Earl of Craven.

In the parish church is a memorial for George Hyde esq. who died in 1661. Ashmole has recorded the monument of Sir Richard Hyde, lessee of the manor under the crown, who died in 1615 : the epitaph, which is not now to be seen, deduced the origin of the Hydes, who were of the Denchworth family, from an ancestor of the same name, to whom that manor had been given by Canute the Dane ; the fallacy of this tradition has been elsewhere shewn^h.

^b Pat. 3 Edw. III.

^c Esch. Car. I.

^d Dugdale's Monasticon.

^e Dugdale's Baronage.

^f Pat. 1 Edw. IV.

^g From the information of Mr. Gray of Newbury.

^h See the account

of Denchworth.

The church of Sutton was given by William the Conqueror, to the abbot and convent of Abingdon, and appropriated to that monastery. The advowson of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Abingdon, was given to the dean and chapter of Windsor, in the reign of Edward IV. In 1547, the manor of Sutton, described as late parcel of the possessions of the abbot and convent of Abingdon, was granted to Lord Wriothesley: it is probable that this was the rectorial manor, afterwards given to the dean and chapter of Windsor, under whom it has been held for many generations, by the family of Justice. The rectory house, now the seat of Francis Justice esq. has the appearance of having been a monastic residence; it is said to have been used by the monks of Abingdon, as a place of retirement for their invalids. Some of the rooms retain their original form, and most of the windows are ancient.

Appleford, a large hamlet in this parish, has a chapel of ease, with a cemetery: in the chapel are several memorials for the family of Justice. Edmund Bradstock, founded a free-school at Appleford, and endowed it with lands, for the education of 20 poor children, 13 of whom are to be of Sutton, and seven of Appleford.

Sutton-Wick, in this parish, adjoins to the village of Drayton. The parish of Sutton-Courtney, with the hamlet of Sutton-wick, have been inclosed, by an act of parliament, passed in 1801, when an allotment of land was assigned to the impropiator, in lieu of the tithes of Sutton-Wick: the lands in Sutton-Courtney remain subject to tithes.

SWALLOWFIELD, in the hundred of Charlton, lies about six miles to the south-east of Reading. The manor was anciently in the St. Johns, of Legham, as a member of Shinfieldⁱ, afterwards in the De la Beches^k. John, Duke of Bedford, Regent of France, died, seized of this manor in 1435, and left it, with other large estates, to the king, who, in 1443, gave it to John Penicoke, one of the grooms of his wardrobe^l; at a later period, it was in the family of Backhouse; Sir John Backhouse K. B. died in 1649, and lies buried in the chapel; Sir William Backhouse, his grandson, died in 1669; his widow married Henry, Earl of Clarendon, who became possessed of Swallowfield. The celebrated Lord Chancellor, Clarendon, resided at his son's house at Swallowfield, after his retirement from public life, and there wrote his great work, "the History of the Rebellion." Swallowfield-place was afterwards the seat and property of Governor Pitt, generally known by the name of Diamond Pitt, who purchased it of Edward, Earl of Clarendon (grandson of the historian) in 1719. From the Pitts, the manor and mansion passed successively

ⁱ Esch. Edw. II. and Nomina Villarum. No. 6281, Harl. MSS. Brit. Mus.

^k Esch. Edw. III.

^l Pat. 21. Hen. VI.

to the Dods^m and Beavans : it is now the property and seat of Timothy Hare Earle esq. Swallowfield has a parochial chapel, dependant on the church of Shinfield. *Rifeley* is a hamlet in this parish. Farley-hill, in this parish, now the seat of Rowland Stephenson esq. was purchased by him of Mr. Dearsley, and was before the property of John Walter esq. An annual fair is held at Swallowfield on the 9th of June.

THATCHAM, in the hundred of Reading, lies three miles to the east of Newbury, on the road to London ; although now only a village, it appears to have been formerly a town of some consequence, as appears from the survey of Domesday, and other records, in which it is described as an ancient boroughⁿ, but it does not appear that it ever sent representatives to parliament. From a very early period, it had a market on Sundays, which was confirmed to the abbot and convent of Reading, by King Henry II's charter^o : King Henry III. in 1218, altered the market-day to Thursday^p : the market has long been discontinued. Two annual fairs are still held, the Tuesday after Easter week, and the first Tuesday after the 29th of September.

The manor of Thatcham was given to the abbot and convent of Reading, by their founder, King Henry I.^q After the dissolution of that monastery, it was granted, in 1539, to John Winchcombe, son of the celebrated Jack of Newbury. Upon the attainder of Henry Lord Bolingbroke, who married one of the coheiresses of his descendant, Sir Henry Winchcombe bart. it was purchased, in 1722, of the trustees, appointed under an act of parliament then passed, by James, Duke of Chandos, who conveyed it the same year to Brigadier General Waring ; from his family it passed by bequest to the Crofts, who were allied to them by marriage. After the death of Sir John Croft bart. it was sold by auction, and is now the property of William Mount esq. of Wasing.

^m An act of Parliament was passed in 1737, to enable the family of Dod to sell this estate, but it appears not to have been sold till some years afterwards.

ⁿ See Brown Willis's *Notitia Parliamentaria*.

^o Dugdale's *Monasticon*.—Markets and fairs were formerly held at many places on Sundays, Good-Friday, and other great fasts and festivals, to the great umbrage of pious persons, who, from time to time protested against so profane a practice. In 1449, it became the subject of a petition to parliament, with what success does not appear : in this petition (see rolls of parliament, temp. Hen. VI.) it is said that an angel appeared to King Henry II. at Cardiff, on the Sunday after Easter, warning him to put a stop to markets on Sundays and great festivals, as recorded in the *Polychronicon*. In the reign of King Henry III. several markets were changed, by the king's charter, from Sundays to other days, as was that of Thatcham above-mentioned in the text.

^p Cl. 2 Hen. III.

^q Dugdale.

Dunstan-House, the seat of the Warings and Crofts, described by Rocque, in 1761, as one of the most magnificent mansions in the county, was bought on speculation at the sale of Sir John Croft's estates, and, although in complete repair, pulled down for the sake of the materials.

The monument of Judge Danvers (mentioned in Ashmole's Collections) still remains in the parish church, but the inscription and figures have been removed. There are some memorials for the family of Fuller, of Chamber-house, the late Sir Archer Croft bart. who died in 1792, and his mother, (daughter of Brigadier-General Waring) who died in 1767.

The great tithes of this parish belonged to the abbot and convent of Reading, by whom they were appropriated to the hospital, founded by abbot Hugh[†]: after the reformation, they were annexed to the manor, till the sale of Sir John Croft's estates, when they were divided into lots, many of which were purchased by the farmers, who occupied the several estates. The advowson of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Reading, had been also appurtenant to the manor, till the above-mentioned sale: it is now vested in the representatives of the late incumbent, the Rev. Archer Thompson.

Lady Frances Winchcombe, mother of Lady Bolingbroke, in the year 1707, founded a charity school at this place, and endowed it with 53*l. per annum*. The school, which was intended for the education of children of this parish, Bucklebury, and East-Shefford, had been long discontinued, and its revenues lost to the parish; when the late vicar's father, being then the incumbent, very laudably instituted a suit for their recovery, and, after a long contest, had the satisfaction of seeing his labours crowned with success, and the school re-established, with an income increased to 200*l. per annum*: forty boys, 20 of whom are of the parish of Bucklebury, are now clothed and educated in this school, and six of them are annually apprenticed, with premiums of 10*l.* each. The school-house was a decayed chapel, of the early history of which nothing can be now ascertained; it was purchased by Lady F. Winchcombe, for the purpose of appropriating it to its present use: at the east end, on the outside, are two Gothic niches: the street in which it stands is called, in the purchase deed, Chapel-street.

The parish of Thatcham is the most extensive of any in the county, excepting Lambourn, containing, according to Rocque's Survey, 11,491 acres: it extends to the town of Newbury, and includes some part of its suburbs. The principal hamlets are *Midgham*, *Greenham*, and *Crokeham*. Chamber-house, Henwick,

[†] Coates's History of Reading, p. 279.

Cold-ash, and Colthorp, are also in this parish. Midgham and Greenham have chapels of ease : there was formerly a chapel at Crokeham.

Midgham Chapel was rebuilt by John Hillersdon esq. lord of the manor, in 1714. The manor of Midgham had at a more remote period been successively in the families of Erle^s, Stokes^t, and Norris^u. It is now the property and seat of William Poyntz esq. (of the ancient family of that name, at Iron-Aston, in Gloucestershire), whose father purchased it of the Hillersdons, about the year 1738.

Greenham, at the time of the Norman survey, was part of the large property of Henry de Ferrars. At that early period it appears, that it had a church or chapel ; in the survey it is called *ecclesia*. Maud, Countess of Clare, in the reign of Henry the second, gave the manor of Greenham to the knights hospitallers^x, at the same time Gervase Paynell gave them the village^y. The hospitallers had a preceptory at this place, as appears by a catalogue of Berkshire gentry, in the reign of Henry VI. among whom is John Prendegast, preceptor of the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem of Greenham^z. About the beginning of Henry III's reign, Ralph Lord Mufard had a manor in Greenham^a, which seems to have been distinct from that of the knights-hospitallers. The Sotwells, of Chute, in Wiltshire, had a seat at Greenham, and, it is probable, the manor, during the early part of the 17th century^b: the manor was afterwards in the noble family of Grey : Brigadier-General Waring purchased it, in 1725, of Henry, Duke of Kent. Upon the sale of Sir John Croft's estates, James Croft esq. who had changed his name from Woodcock, on marrying one of the daughters of Sir Archer Croft bart. bought Greenham, and built a house there for his residence : the old manor-house, near the chapel, has been long occupied as a farm. At Greenham-mills is a large and flourishing blanket manufactory.

Reginald Fitzpiers died, seized of the manor of Crokeham, in 1286^c, King Edward II. granted it to Piers de Gaveston, who was beheaded at Warwick in 1312. King Edward III. granted it in 1330, to Sir William Montacute, afterwards Earl of Salisbury, and Katherine, his wife^d: it continued in this noble family till the death of the unfortunate Margaret, Countess of Salisbury, (the last of the Plantagenets,) who was executed in her old age, by command of King Henry VIII. in 1541. The following year the manor of Crokeham (with the tithes of Crokeham-park, which had been inclosed by William, Earl of Salisbury, in 1337^e;) was granted to William, Earl of Southampton, and his heirs male, with remainder to Lord Herbert, eldest son of the Earl of Worcester, and his heirs male^f. In 1667,

^s Esch. Hen. VI.

^t Esch. Edw. IV.

^u Esch. Eliz.

^x Dugdale.

^y Ibid.

^z Fuller's Worthies.

^a Cl. 1 Hen. III.

^b Monumental inscriptions at Thatcham.

^c Dugdale.

^d Ibid.

^e Pat. 11 Edw. III.

^f Lord Selfe's papers.

the Marquis of Worcester being then seised of the fee of this manor, under a grant of King Charles II. sold it to the family of Mico. In 1682, it became the property of Sebastian Lyford, whose grandson and devisee, Clement Kent, sold it in 1729, to Bullstrode Peachey Knight esq. uncle of the Right Hon. Lord Selfe, the present proprietor. There was anciently a free-chapel at Crokeham, of which there are no remains.

In the year 1447, John Pury, being then Lord of the manor of Chamberhouse, in this parish, had the king's licence to embattle his manor-house, and to impark 344 acres of land^a. From the Purys, Chamberhouse passed, by a female heir, to William Danvers^b, one of the justices of the common pleas, who died in 1504, and lies buried in Thatcham church. Nicholas Fuller, a barrister, and his son, Sir Nicholas Fuller knt. both died seised of this house and manor, in 1620^c. It was purchased of their descendants, in the early part of the last century, by Mr. Lonsdale, whose family sold it, not many years ago, to Sir George Cornwall, bart.: it is now the property of Mr. Richard Tull.

The manor of Henwick was, for a considerable time, in the Tippings, and is now the property of the Rev. Philip Wroughton, and Mary Anne, his wife, the representative of that family. Mr. Mount, of Wasing, gives a deputation for another manor, or reputed manor, in Henwick, as attached to the manor of Thatcham, purchased by him at the sale of Sir John Croft's estates.

The manor of Colthorp, or Coldthorp, which had belonged to the abbot and convent of Reading, was the property of Brigadier-General Waring, and descended with his other estates in this parish, to the Crofts: it was purchased at the above mentioned sale, by the present proprietors, Col. Brooke and John Brooke esq. It is probable, that the manor of Colecrope, or Coledrope, which belonged successively to the Achards and De la Mares^k, was in this hamlet. Mr. Mount appoints a game-keeper also for Coldthorp.

TIDMARSH, in the hundred of Theale, lies about seven miles nearly to the west of Reading, between the Bath and Wallingford roads. The manor belonged anciently to a family, who took their name from the village, and possessed it for several generations^l: it was afterwards successively in the Rothwells^m and Leynhamsⁿ: of late years it has undergone frequent alienations. Tidmarsh is now the property and seat of Robert Hopkins esq. who purchased it of Charles Butler esq. in 1798.

^a Cart. 25 and 26 Hen. VI.

^b Epitaph in Ashmole's Collections.

^c Esch. Jac. 1.

^k Esch. Edw. II. and Edw. III.

^l Esch. Edw. I.—Rich. II.

^m Esch. Edw. IV.

ⁿ Epitaph in the church.

In the parish church, which exhibits a curious specimen of ancient architecture^o, is the tomb of Margaret, wife of Thomas Wode, one of the justices of the King's-Bench, and relict of Robert Leynham esq. lord of the manor, in 1499: there are some memorials also for the family of Lynn. Mr. Hopkins is patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Reading: the advowson formerly belonged to Reading abbey.

TUBNEY, in the hundred of Ock, lies about six miles to the south-west of Oxford. The manor was formerly, for a considerable time, in the Corbets^p, from whom, about the year 1417, it passed, by a female heir, to the Grevilles^q: a few years afterwards it was in the family of Leynham, or Lenham^r: in 1482, it was purchased of Margaret Lenham by William de Waynfleet, founder of Magdalen College, in Oxford, and by him given to that society: within this manor are some extensive woods. The rectory is a sinecure, in the gift of the president and scholars of Magdalen College. The church has been long ago destroyed; not a stone of it remains: the site of the church-yard is in a field, not far from Appleton. On the induction of a rector, divine service is performed in the open air.

TYLEHURST, in the hundred of Reading, lies three miles west of Reading, a little to the north of the Bath road. The manor belonged to the abbot and convent of Reading, and is supposed to have been granted to the Kendricks, who continued to possess it for several generations. After the death of Sir William Kendrick bart. it passed, in marriage with his daughter and heir, to Benjamin Child esq. who sold it about the year 1759, to the late John Blagrove esq.: it is now the property of a gentleman of the same name, of the family of Blagrove, of Watchfield, near Shrivenham, who married his name-fake's niece and devisee. Calcot-house, the seat of Mr. Blagrove, was built by John Blagrove above mentioned, and has passed with the manor.

Prospect-hill, in this parish, was part of the same estate, and passed, by the marriage of Mr. Child's eldest daughter, to the family of Hill, of whom it was purchased by the present possessor, John Engelbert Liebenrood esq.

In the parish church is a very costly monument to the memory of Sir Peter Vanlore, a rich merchant, who died in 1627, and his lady. Sir Peter was a native of Utrecht, and is supposed to have had a temporary interest in the manor of Tylehurst, by alliance with the Kendricks.

^o See p. 205.

^p Cart. 7 Edw. III. and Esch. 5 Hen. V.

^q Esch. 5 Hen. V.

^r Esch. Hen. VI.

The great tithes of this parish were appropriated to the abbot and convent of Reading. Sir Francis Englefield having, in 1545, purchased the rectories of Tylehurst, St. Mary's, and St. Giles's, in Reading, gave them, in 1556, to their respective churches, for the celebration of masses and obits: having been thus appropriated to superstitious uses, they became forfeited to the crown in the first year of Queen Elizabeth, who, in 1573, granted the great and small tithes of St. Mary's and St. Giles's to the vicars of those parishes: it is stated, in Bacon's Liber Regis, that the grant to this place took place in 1586. The Rev. Dr. Sheppard, of Amport, is patron of the endowed vicarage of Tylehurst, which is in the deanery of Reading.

The learned and venerable William Lloyd, who died bishop of Worcester, in 1717, at the age of 90, was a native of this parish: his baptism does not appear in the register, as it does not commence till 1627, just after the date of his birth.

Theale, a well-known village on the Bath road, is a tithing within this parish, and gives name to an adjoining hundred: it had formerly a chapel of ease. The Earl of Essex with his army, on their march to London, after the first battle of Newbury, halted for a night at Theale, on the 22d of September, 1643¹.

UFFINGTON, in the hundred of Shrivenham, lies nearly five miles to the south-east of Faringdon. The manor, which belonged to the abbot and convent of Reading, was granted, by King Henry VIII. to John Malt: it afterwards became the property of Sir Thomas Parry, of whose family it was purchased about the year 1619, by Sir William Craven. William, Earl of Craven, his descendant, is the present proprietor.

In the parish church, which is a handsome structure, in the form of a cross, of the earliest style of Gothic architecture, are memorials of the families of Saunders and Archer. The spire was destroyed by lightning about the year 1750.

The great tithes of this parish were appropriated to the abbot and convent of Abingdon. The impropriate rectory is now the property of John Archer Houlton esq. grandson of the late Mr. Archer: Mr. Houlton is patron of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Abingdon.

Balking, in old records written *Badelking*, or *Bethelking*, a considerable hamlet of this parish, with a chapel of ease, was anciently a market town. The market day was changed, by a charter of King Henry III. in 1219, from Thursday to Tuesday². The market was confirmed by a subsequent charter of 1253³. Balking being com-

¹ Coates's History of Reading.

² Heath's and Vicars's Chronicles.

³ Cl. 3 Hen. III.

⁴ Pat. Vascon. 37 and 38 Hen. III.

prised within the manor of Kingston-Lisle, has passed through the same hands^y, and is now the property of Mr. Atkins.

The manor of *Woolston*, anciently *Wolvericheton*, a large hamlet in this parish, with a chapel of ease, belonged, from a very early period, to the nuns of Ambresbury. In 1542, it was granted to Sir Thomas Seymour, the lord admiral; and after his attainder, to Thomas Weldon^z. Sir Charles Wiseman died seised of it in 1626^a. It seems to have been soon afterwards in the family of Tipping, and is now the property of the Rev. Philip Wroughton, of Woolley-park, and Mary-Anne, his wife, niece of the late Bartholomew Tipping esq.

The celebrated ancient figure of a White Horse^b, which gives name to the adjoining vale, was within the manor of Woolston, before the act of parliament passed in 1777, for inclosing certain fields in Uffington, Balking, Woolston, Kingston-Lisle, and Farlow: by that act the White Horse, and the ancient entrenchment on the hill above, were allotted to Lord Craven; and it was enacted, that they should be for ever, from that time, considered as lying within, and part of the manor of Uffington. Under this act, allotments of land were assigned to the impropriator, and to the vicar, in lieu of the tithes of Uffington and Woolston. The hamlet of Balking, consisting chiefly of old inclosures, remains subject to tithes. Woolston and Balking have separate overseers, and maintain their own poor. Woolston is about a mile and a half south-west, and Balking about the same distance north-east of Uffington.

UFTON, in the hundred of Theale, lies about seven miles to the south-west of Reading. At the time of the Norman survey, there were two manors in Ufton, then called Offetune: these manors were afterwards distinguished by the names of Ufton-Nervets, or Nerimits, and Ufton-Greyshall. It is probable, that the same names distinguished the two parishes of Ufton, which were consolidated in 1442.

The manor of Ufton-Nervet is supposed to be the same, which at the time of the survey belonged to William Fitz-Ansculf, ancestor of the Paganel, and in 1316 was held under their representatives the Sometys, by William de Ufton^c. The manor of Ufton-Greyshall, as early as the year 1316, belonged to the abbot and

^y See an account of its proprietors, p. 371. ^z Records in the Augmentation Office. ^a Esch. Car. I.

^b See p. 215. To what is there said on this subject, it may be added, that this figure is 374 feet in length. It has been said, that lands in the neighbourhood were held formerly by the tenure of cleaning the White Horse, by cutting away the turf, so as to render the chalk more visible: it is certain, that the neighbouring inhabitants have an ancient custom of assembling for this purpose, which they term scouring the horse. On these occasions, they are entertained at the expence of the lord of the manor, and keep a kind of rural festival, with various appropriate diversions: the last celebrity of this kind took place in 1780. ^c Nomina Villarum, No. 6281. Harl. MSS.

convent of Reading^d, who had another estate called Greyshall, (now Griefly) in the adjoining parish of Sulhamsted-Abbots. In 1603, the manors of Ufton-Greyshall and Ufton-Nervets were inherited, on the death of Sir Edward Norris, by his nephew, Francis, Earl of Berkshire^e. Not long afterwards, these estates, which are no longer distinguished as separate manors, became the property of the Perkins family. On the death of John Perkins esq. the last heir male, in 1769, the manor of Ufton devolved in consequence of an entail, made by his brother Francis, to John Jones esq. of Llanarth, who, in 1802, sold it to William Congreve esq. of Aldermaston.

The family of Perkins resided many years at Ufton-Court. Arabella, wife of Francis Perkins esq. who died in 1736, was the Belinda of Pope's *Rape of the Lock*, which is dedicated to her under her maiden name of Fermor; she died in 1738. In the parish church, (called Ufton-Nervets,) are some monuments of this family. The most remarkable is that of Francis Perkins esq. who died in 1635; this monument, which exhibits the figures of Mr. Perkins and his lady, under an arch supported by Corinthian columns, is of chalk. In Ashmole's Collections, mention is made of a monument for Richard Perkins esq. and his wife, Lady Mervin, who was a benefactress to the parish. The ruins of the other church, which it is probable was called Ufton-Greyshall, are to be seen near the river Kennet, within a spacious cemetery. The provost and scholars of Oriel College in Oxford are patrons of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Reading: Dr. Beeke, professor of modern history, in the above-mentioned university, is the present rector. An act of parliament, for the inclosure of this parish, passed in 1804; the lands remain subject to tithes.

WALLINGFORD, a very ancient borough and market town, lies on the banks of the Thames, and on the road from Reading to Oxford, at the distance of 46 miles from London. There are reasons for supposing that this was a town in the time of the Romans, though its ancient name is unknown^f. Its name of Wallingford, whether derived, as Camden supposes, from the British word *Guallen*, or the Roman *Vallum*, owes its origin no doubt to the ancient fortification, with which it is surrounded, and its ford over the Thames.

The earliest mention of Wallingford in history is in 1006, when it was destroyed by the Danes^g; it seems to have been soon afterwards rebuilt, for it appears that Swain, King of Denmark was there in 1013^h. In the reign of King Edward the Confessor, Wallingford was a royal borough; in which there were 276 houses

^d Nomina Villarum.
county, p. 203.

^e Dugdale's Baronage, vol. II.
^g Sax. Chron.

^h Ibid.

^f See the introduction to this

paying gabel-tax to the crown: the inhabitants of these houses owed the king personal service, either on horseback, or in his navy.

At the time of the Norman invasion, Wigod, a powerful Saxon, had a castle at Wallingford, to which, after the battle of Hastings, he invited the victorious monarch: the invitation was accepted, and at this place the conqueror received the submission of Archbishop Stigand, and the principal barons, before he marched with his army to London. During his abode at this place, he celebrated the marriage of Robert D'Oyley, one of his favourite generals, with the only daughter of Wigodⁱ. About the year 1067, the king fearing that his new subjects might establish a garrison at Wallingford, as they had already done at Oxford, commanded Robert D'Oyley to build a strong castle there: this castle was frequently used as a state prison, as will be seen in the course of its subsequent history: Aldred, abbot of Abingdon, is the first person on record who was imprisoned in it^k.

Maud, only daughter and heir of Robert D'Oyley, brought the castle, town, and honor of Wallingford in marriage to Milo Crispin, and after his death to her second husband, Brien Fitzcount, who, being devoted to the interest of the Empress Maud, immediately on her arrival in the kingdom, fortified Wallingford castle, and declared on her behalf^l. This castle afforded her a secure retreat, when she escaped from Oxford, eluding observation, as our historians^m relate, by passing along the river, then frozen over, in white garments; the ground being at the same time covered with snow. A prison in the castle called *Cloere Brien* was the place of confinement for such of the king's friends, as fell into the hands of the empress and her party. Stephen several times besieged this castle, but in vain: having built a fort at Cromarsh, on the opposite side of the river, for the purpose of carrying on the siege with better effect, Brien Fitzcount dispatched a messenger to the Duke of Normandy, who, coming over with an army to assist his friends at Wallingford, laid siege to the king's fort or castle of Cromarshⁿ: Stephen hastened to its relief, and the two armies were encamped only three furlongs asunder, when proposals were made for an accommodation: a peace was in consequence concluded before the walls of Wallingford in 1153, by the terms of which the fortress at Cromarsh was to be destroyed at the king's cost^o; and Brien Fitzcount to be pardoned and taken into favour. Simon de St. Liz, Earl of Northampton and Huntingdon, one of the zealous opposers of the Duke of Normandy's interest, died at the siege of Wallingford^p.

Before the close of Stephen's reign, Brien Fitzcount took upon him the cross, abandon'd his possessions, and went to the Holy Land; his wife had before taken

ⁱ Kennet's Parochial Antiquities. ^k An. 1071. See Kennet. ^l Kennet. ^m M. Paris, W. Hemingford, Knighton, Brompton, &c. ⁿ Kennet. ^o Gervasius, (inter Decem Scriptores,) and Mat. Paris. ^p Kennet.

the veil at a convent in Normandy^p. In consequence of this event, King Henry II. on his accession to the throne, seized into his own hands the honor and castle of Wallingford, where, on the following Easter, he convened a general council of the bishops and barons; and caused them to swear allegiance to him, and his heirs^q.

In the reign of Richard I. in consequence of an agreement made between Earl John, the king's brother, and the lord chancellor in 1191, Wallingford castle, as being a fortress of great importance, was delivered into the hands of the archbishop of Rouen, a man of approved loyalty, during the king's stay in Palestine^r; but when the news arrived of Richard's imprisonment, Earl John took possession of this castle^s. The barons, who were in the king's interest, besieged and took it: by a subsequent treaty, both parties agreed that it should be put into the possession of Eleanor, the Queen Dowager^t.

In 1212, John being then king, met the discontented barons of the north at Wallingford, when an apparent reconciliation was effected, and the kiss of peace given, through the mediation of the Pope's legate^u. In 1213, the king appointed a meeting at Wallingford, respecting the affair of the exiled bishops^v. In 1216, the castle was put into a state of defence and victualled; Lewis the dauphin, being then in England^w. In the former part of Henry the III's reign, Wallingford castle belonged to Ranulph de Blundeville, the brave Earl of Chester, who died there in 1232^x; when the castle and honor came into the possession of Richard, Earl of Cornwall, under a grant made by the king two years before^y. In 1238, an affray happened at Oxford, between the scholars of that university, and Otto, the Pope's legate, and his suite: some of the leaders on both sides were sent by William, Earl of Warren, (deputed by the king to suppress the tumult,) to the prison, in Wallingford castle^z. The Earl of Cornwall, having repaired the castle, is said, by Wikes, to have kept his nuptial feast there, on his marriage with his second wife, Senchia, sister of his brother's queen; but the Waverly annals, and Matthew Paris, represent this feast as having been held at Westminster: in 1245, the earl kept his Christmas at Wallingford, and made a great feast for the king, queen, and nobility^a. In 1264, Prince Edward, the king's son, and Henry, son of the Earl of Cornwall, then king of the Romans, were sent prisoners to Wallingford; and shortly afterwards the earl himself, falling into the hands of the discontented barons, became a prisoner in his own castle^b. Richard, king of the Romans, died seized of the borough of Wallingford, in 1272^c: at this time there existed, in the borough, a privilege, if privilege it may be deemed, of so extraordinary a nature, that, unless it were well authen-

^p Kennet. ^q Ibid. ^r Holinshed. ^s Ibid. ^t Ibid. ^u Chronicle of Dunstaple.
 Matthew Paris, says, in 1213. ^v Holinshed. ^w Ibid. ^x Mat. Paris.
^y 15 Hen. III. ^z Dugdale's baronage, vol. I. p. 77. ^a Kennet. ^b Chronicle
 of Dunstaple. ^c Esch. 56 Hen. III. ^d Kennet.

ticated by records, it would scarcely obtain credit. It appears, by an inquisition taken upon oath, about ten years before the last-mentioned date, that, for a first offence, of however heinous a nature, a native of this borough might make his option of having his eyes put out, and being otherwise mutilated, instead of paying the forfeit of his life^f. This privilege the jury state to have been enjoyed from time immemorial, and that it had been then lately claimed by one Benedict Hervey^g.

In 1272, a few months after his father's death, Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, brought his bride (sister of Gilbert Le Clare, Earl of Gloucester) to Wallingford, and made a great feast for the nobility^h: the king, his cousin, honoured him with a visit there, in 1276ⁱ. On the death of this earl, without lawful issue, in 1300, the castle and honor of Wallingford reverted to the crown, and were given, by King Edward II. in 1308, to his favourite, Piers de Gaveston, whom he created, the same year, Earl of Cornwall^k. In 1309, the earl, having proclaimed a tournament at Wallingford, gave such umbrage, by his insolence, to the Earl of Lancaster, and other lords who resorted thither, that they vowed revenge^l: the ill-timed indulgence of his master encouraged him to irritate them with repeated affronts, till he paid for them with his life, having fallen into the hands of the confederate lords, who, with very little ceremony, beheaded him near Warwick, in 1312.

In 1317, King Edward II. gave the castle and honor of Wallingford to his queen, Isabel^m: during the civil war between this monarch and the discontented nobles, it appears that Roger, Lord Mortimer, of Wigmore, surprised the castle of Wallingfordⁿ. Maurice, Lord Berkeley, and Hugh, Lord Audley, who had been in arms against the king, having been committed prisoners to this castle, an attempt was made to release them, in 1323, by Sir John Goldington, Sir Edmund De la Beche, and others, who got into the castle by a postern, near the Thames^o. The attempt was frustrated; and Sir Edmund De la Beche, a priest, (being, probably, the same person who was afterwards archdeacon of Berkshire,) was sent a prisoner to Pomfret.

It appears that, about this time, Wallingford castle, being in the hands of the king's enemies, Sir Roger D'Amory was sent to besiege it; and that, for 35 days, which he spent in the siege and subsequent defence of the castle, after he had succeeded in getting it into his possession, he received the sum of 51. 7s. ^p. Maurice, Lord Berkeley, above mentioned, continued a prisoner at Wallingford, till

^f The words of the record are, "quod nullus de natione istius burgi pro quocunque facto quod fecerit debet suspendi, imo secundum consuetudinem istius burgi debet oculis & testibus privari; & tali libertate usi sunt a tempore quo non extat memoria." ^g See Kennet's Paroch. Ant. p. 253.

^h Kennet's Paroch. Ant.

ⁱ Chronicle of Dunstaple.

^k Kennet.

^l Ibid.

^m Ibid.

ⁿ See Pat. 17 Edw. II.

^o Holinshed.

^p Kennet.

his death, which happened in 1326^a, in which year the queen kept her Christmas there with great festivity, entertaining a great company of knights and barons, her unfortunate husband being then a prisoner at Kenilworth^r. King Edward III. gave the castle and honor of Wallingford to his son, John, of Eltham, Earl of Cornwall, who died in 1334: they were afterwards annexed, by act of parliament, to the duchy of Cornwall, and held by Edward, the Black Prince, and some of his successors in that duchy. Joan, the fair maid of Kent, widow of the Black Prince, died at Wallingford, in 1385^s. Towards the close of King Richard II's reign, the Earl of Wiltshire, and the king's three confidential servants, Buffy, Bagot, and Green, were made keepers of Wallingford castle, which, it appears, had been one of the queen's palaces^t. King Henry IV. gave the custody of Wallingford castle and honor to Thomas Chaucer, son of the poet, for life^u. The Dowager Queen Katharine, widow of Henry V. had a grant of Wallingford, in 1422^x.

When Cardinal Wolsey was about to found a college in Oxford, the king, his master, separated the castle and honor of Wallingford from the duchy of Cornwall, and gave them to that prelate, as a part of the endowment of his intended college; but, on the cardinal's attainder, it is supposed that he resumed the grant^v. In 1540, an act of parliament passed to separate the honor of Wallingford from the duchy of Cornwall, and annex it to the manor of Ewelme, in Oxfordshire; which, from that time, was to be called the honor of Ewelme, and to have the same privileges as the honor of Wallingford had enjoyed.

Leland, who visited Wallingford about this time, describes the castle as having "three dikes, large, deep, and well watered: about each of the two first dikes, (says he,) are embattled waulle fore yn ruine, & for the most part defaced; all the goodly buildings, with the toures & dungeon, be within the three dikes." Camden, speaking of this castle, says, "Its size and magnificence used to strike me with amazement, when I came thither, a lad, from Oxford, it being a retreat for the students of Christ's Church." This expression has induced most writers to suppose, that the site of the castle then belonged to that college, which is an error, as will be hereafter shewn. "It is environed," continues the learned antiquary, "with a double wall, and a double ditch, and in the middle, on a high artificial mount, stands the citadel, in the ascent to which, by steps, I have seen a well of immense depth." It appears by an inquisition, taken in the year 1555, that the buildings of the keep were then standing, and that they contained two dungeons, or prisons:

^a Dugdale's Baronage.
Introduction.

^r Holinshed.
^t Pat. 23 Rich. II.

^s Gough's Sepulchral Monuments, p. 56. of the
^u Pat. 1 Hen. IV. ^x Rolls of Parliament.

^v Browne Willis's Notitia Parliamentaria.

the other buildings of the castle seem not to have been, at that time, of any great extent ^z.

Wallingford castle was put into a state of repair, at an early period of the civil war between King Charles and his parliament; and being well garrisoned, was esteemed one of the most important fortresses in the king's possession ^a. When the Earls of Holland and Bedford deserted the parliament, they repaired to the royal garrison at Wallingford ^b. On the 28th of October, 1644, the king's army marched to Wallingford, after the second battle of Newbury ^c. The castle escaped a siege till nearly the close of the war; it was surrendered by Col. Blague, the governor, to Sir Thomas Fairfax, in the month of July, 1646 ^d, when Adjutant Evelyn was appointed governor for the parliament ^e: the learned Judge Jenkyns was committed a prisoner to Wallingford castle the same year ^f. It has been said, that Sir Edmund Dunch was appointed, by Cromwell, constable or governor of Wallingford castle ^g; but the order of council for its demolition, which bears date November 18th, 1652, is directed to Major Evelyn, who appears to have been the only governor, after it came into the possession of the parliament. This order, the original of which is in the possession of Mrs. J. Wells, of Wallingford, after stating, that the council found it necessary that as many of the inland garrisons as could be conveniently spared, should be forthwith demolished, and that the inhabitants of the county of Berks had petitioned that Wallingford should be one of that number, authorizes Major Evelyn, and others, to proceed in the demolition of the castle, and the works and fortifications thereunto belonging, to sell the materials of the said castle and fortifications, as well as of the huts, magazines, and other buildings, erected within the walls, to defray the expence of pulling them down; and directs, that the overplus should be given, according to their discretion, for the relief of such poor persons as had been sufferers by the garrison, while it was in the late king's hands. This order was so well obeyed, that there is scarcely a vestige of the buildings to be seen; part of a wall towards the river being all that remains of this ancient and celebrated castle. It is said, that when the Duke of Schomberg, who was eminent for his skill in military tactics, went to see the site of Wallingford castle, after having well observed the keep, and the rest of the ground upon which it was situated, he declared that, in a little time, he could so fortify it, that it would be impossible to be approached by an enemy; and that he scarcely knew of any place that might be made so fit as this, for securing any person, in the time of danger or distress ^h: the keep is now overgrown with trees.

^z MS. History of Wallingford.
Historical Discourses, p. 115.

^a Clarendon.

^b Ibid.

^c Sir Edward Walker's

^d Heath's Chronicle.

^e Weekly Intelligencer.

^f Ant. Wood.

^g Pamphlet, entitled, "Myſteries of the good old Cause."

^h T. Hearne, in Leland's Collectanea, vol. VI. p. 93.

The site of Wallingford castle is still annexed to the honor of Ewelme, under the act of King Henry VIII. William Hucks esq. is the present lessee; the lease has been many years in his family: in the early part of the last century, it was in the possession of Thomas Renda esq.¹ who represented the borough of Wallingford, in parliament: a brick building, of no great antiquity, within the site of the castle, is described in his lease as the prison house.

The manor of Wallingford was granted by King James I. to the corporation.

Within the walls of Wallingford castle was an ancient college^k, consisting of a dean and prebendaries. Ralph de Norwich was collated, in 1217, to the deanery of the king's chapel at Wallingford¹: Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, who died in 1300, and has been generally deemed the founder, endowed the college with lands and rents for the maintenance of six chaplains, six clerks, and four choristers^m. Its revenues, which were farther augmented by Edward the Black Prince, and King Henry VI. were estimated in the reign of Edward VI. at 147l. 8s. 0½d. clear yearly value. Leland, speaking of this college, says "the Decane afore Dr. London that now is, buildid a fair steple of stone, at the weste ende of the collegiate chapelle, to making whereof, he defaced as it is said, without licence, a peace of the king's lodging, joyning to the este end of the chapelle. The decane hath a fair lodging of tymbre within the castelle, and to it is joined a place for the ministers of the chapelle." An inquisition, taken in 1555, describes the tower spoken of by Leland, as 25 feet square, and the chapel of St. Nicholas as 60 feet in length, and 40 in breadthⁿ. Dr. London, the last dean of this college, was very active in promoting the business of the reformation, and was one of the commissioners appointed by King Henry VIII. to examine into the state of religious houses.

The site of Wallingford college, consisting then of the dean's lodgings, the priest's lodgings, and the clerk's lodgings, was granted in 1548 to Michael Stanhope and John Bellew, of whom it was purchased, the same year, by the dean and canons of Christ's Church College, in Oxford, as a place of retirement "in times of sickness and visitation." It appears clearly from what has been stated, that they were possessed of no more than the site of the collegiate chapel and its appurtenances. It was during a removal of the college hither, that Camden was at Wallingford, as

¹ MS. History of Wallingford, written about the year 1720. A copy of this MS. is in the hands of several persons at Wallingford.

^k It is somewhere asserted, and it seems very probable, that this college was founded by Milo Crispin, Lord of Wallingford, about the year 1100. It is certain that the foundation had taken place some time before the year 1217. In the year 1227, Hugh de Bathonia was collated to the church of Stokes, being a prebend of the chapel at Wallingford.—See Pat. 11 Hen. III.

¹ Pat. 1 Hen. III.

^m Dugdale.

ⁿ MS. History of Wallingford.

before mentioned. In the year 1554, the clerks' lodging was let to Thomas Parry esq. and his wife, Dame Anne Fortescue^o, on condition of their quitting the whole of it, excepting one convenient chamber, at eight days notice, in case of the sickness being at Oxford: the same conditions were for many years inserted in all the leases^p. In the civil war, the dean's lodging was utterly demolished, and the whole place so altered, that it was difficult to ascertain the exact boundaries of the college estate. The clerks' lodging still remains, and is occupied as a dwelling-house; the priests' lodging is inhabited by cottagers.

Just within the west gate of Wallingford, was a convent of Benedictine monks, founded in the reign of William the Conqueror, by Paul, abbot of St. Albans, in the church of the Holy Trinity, which had been then lately given to that abbey, by Geoffrey the chamberlain. Cardinal Wolsey suppressed this, among other small monasteries, in 1535, and procured a grant of it, intending it as part of the endowment of his new College at Oxford; but on his attainder it reverted to the crown, and was granted in 1547 to John Norris esq.^q It afterwards belonged to the family of Molins; and it appears that some part of the building remained in 1644, near Clapcote-House, the seat of that family^r. The priory estate is now the property of William Hucks esq. who has a farm-house on the site. *Wallingford: 1825.*

Without the south gate of the town was a hospital for poor men and women, which existed as early as the beginning of Edward the first's reign. Its revenues were valued in 1535, at 6l. *per annum*: it was dedicated to St. John the Baptist, and it has been supposed that it was the same which in other records is called, the free chapel of St. John the Baptist, in Wallingford^s.

The town of Wallingford was incorporated by King James I. The corporation consists of a mayor and five aldermen, (who are justices of the peace within the borough,) a town-clerk, and other officers, chosen out of the burgessees, who are 18 in number.

Wallingford sent members to parliament in the reign of Edward I. The right of election is vested in the mayor, aldermen, burgessees, and inhabitants, paying scot and lot. That eminent lawyer, Sir William Blackstone, who had a seat at Wallingford, now the property of his son, represented this borough in Parliament.

Wallingford is a market-town by prescription. It appears by the Norman Survey, that, in the reign of William Rufus, the market was held on Saturday; it was afterwards changed to Sunday; and by a charter, bearing date 1218, from that day to Monday^t. There are now two market-days, Tuesday and Friday; the Tuesday's market is very inconsiderable. There are four annual fairs, the Tuesday

^o She was relict of Sir Adrian Portescue.

Christ's Church.
Monastica.

^q Tanner.

^r Cl. 2 Hen. III. See p. 385.

^p Records belonging to the dean and chapter of
^s Symonds's MSS. Brit. Mus.

^t See Tanner's Notitia

before Eaſter, Midſummer-day, Michaelmas-day, and the 17th of December; but the only one much reſorted to, is that held on old Michaelmas-day, which is principally for hiring ſervants: over the market-houſe is a Town-hall, where the ſeſſions for the borough are held. The Michaelmas Seſſions for the county were held here in 1745, Lord Barrington being the chairman: according to the tradition of the town, the aſſizes alſo have occaſionally been held here. The county gaol was in ancient times at Wallingford, from whence it was removed to Windſor: in 1314, the commonalty of the county of Berks preſented a petition to parliament, praying for its removal, ſince its ſituation at Windſor was in a remote part of the county, and ſubject to many inconveniences: a commiſſion was thereupon appointed to inquire what ſituation would be moſt for the king's advantage, and the accommodation of the county^u. It is probable that the county gaol was then removed to Reading, where it has been fixed from a very remote period. The principal trade of this town conſiſts in malting.

Wallingford is ſuppoſed to have been much more populous than it is at preſent, and its decay has been attributed partly to a great plague, which happened in the reign of Edward III. and partly to the circumſtance of the great road to Glouceſterſhire, and South Wales, having been diverted from its former courſe, through Wallingford, by the building of Culham and Burford bridges, near Abingdon, in 1415^x. It is true, as Camden obſerves, that at the making of Domeſday book, there were 276 houſes in Wallingford, which paid the *gabel* tax; but by an attentive examination of that ſurvey, it will appear that the whole number was 304, beſides eight which had been demolished when the caſtle was built; twenty-two out of the twenty-eight, which make up the number, were freeholds, paying a quit-rent to the crown: one was exempt from tax, as being a mint; four others were exempt from various cauſes; and William de Warren had a houſe, for which he paid nothing, the reaſon of which is not aſſigned. Several other houſes are mentioned, as belonging to the manor, but it ſeems clear that they were not ſituated in the town. No means have occurred of obtaining an exact ſtate of the population, at any intermediate time, between this remote period and the year 1801. It is certain that the inhabitants at various times made great complaints of the decay and poverty of the town, in conſequence of which, the fee-farm rent paid to the crown was from time to time diminiſhed, and, at length, by King Henry VII. wholly remitted^y. Leland deſcribes the town as much decayed in his time; and an inquiſition taken in the reign of Philip and Mary, repreſents it as being then “in greater deſolation and

^u See Rolls of Parliament, vol. I. p. 300.
Wallingford.

^x Camden.

^y MS. Hiſtory of

ruin than ever it was every manner of way^v." Unfortunately Wallingford does not occur in some notes of the number of inhabitants of the county of Berks, in the Bodleian Library, as taken by order of Cardinal Pole, in 1555; it cannot be ascertained, therefore, what effect this decay had on the population. According to the returns made to parliament in 1801, the number of houses appear to have been then 362, and that of inhabitants 1744.

If the town of Wallingford suffered so severely by the diversion of one of the great western roads in the 15th century, it may be presumed that it has received proportionate advantage by the two new turnpike roads which were brought through it some years ago, chiefly by means of the zealous exertions of their then representative, Sir William Blackstone. One of these roads leads from Reading to Oxford, a communication having been made across the Thames for that purpose, by the building of Shillingford bridge; the other passes through the vale of Whitehorse to Wantage.

An act of parliament, for paving and lighting the town of Wallingford, passed in 1795.

Leland, in his Itinerary, says it appeared by the donations and patents of Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, that there were anciently 14 parish churches in Wallingford; and that in his time there were men yet alive, who could shew the places where they stood. It must be observed, that the inquisition taken after the death of Richard, Earl of Cornwall, in 1271, only three churches are mentioned; All-Saints, St. Peter's, and St. Michael's²: the taxation of Pope Nicholas, in the reign of King Edward I. omits St. Michael's, and mentions in addition, the churches of the Holy Trinity, St. Mary the great or the more, St. Mary the less, St. Martin, and the united churches of St. Leonard and S. Lucian: in the year 1374³, the churches of St. Mary the less, St. Michael, and St. Peter, were united by the king's patent, on account of the poverty of all three: the church of the Holy Trinity was the conventual church of the Benedictine Monks: a record of the year 1452^b, mentions the united parish of St. Peter and St. John. The author of the MSS. history of Wallingford, seems to be of opinion that he has succeeded in enumerating all the fourteen churches; but in so doing, he reckons the collegiate chapel of St. Nicholas within the castle, two churches of St. John, St. Mary the less, St. Peter in the west; and a church of which he did not know the name, which stood on a plot of ground then in the possession of Mr. Westall: he supposes one of the churches dedicated to St. John to have belonged to the hospital of that name: indeed it is most probable, that there never was more than one parochial church dedicated to that saint, which was called

^v MSS. History of Wallingford.

² Esch. 56 Hen. III.

³ See pat. 48 Edw. III.

^b See Kennet's parochial Antiquities.

St. John's *super aquam* : it stood in Thames street, and appears, by the record of 1452 above-mentioned, to have been united to St. Peter's : the chantry roll mentions a *free chapel* of St. John, which might have been the chapel of the hospital ; in the same roll mention is made of the chapel of St. Mary Magdalen. It does not appear, that more than eleven churches have been fairly made out, even including St. Peter's in the west, of which no mention has been found on record. The author of the above-mentioned history says, that St. Lucian's church, (which belonged to the priory of St. Fridewide in Oxford,) stood five poles south of the alms-house ; St. Michael's, was in the way leading to St. Leonard's church ; All-Saints was in Castle-street : St. Peter in the west, is said to have been in a corner of Kenny-Croft.

Leland says there were in his time three mean parish churches, but does not mention their names : Camden says but *one* or *two* in his time. It seems as if neither of the learned antiquarians were quite correct : when Captain Symonds visited Wallingford in 1644 ; three churches, St. Mary's, St. Peter's, and St. Leonard's, were standing, and in use : All-Saints church, having been disused for more than half a century, had been pulled down the year before by the inhabitants^c. During the siege of Wallingford in 1646, St. Peter's and Saint Leonard's were laid in ruins : St. Leonard's was repaired and opened for divine service about the year 1704 : St. Peter's continued in ruins, till the present reign ; it was rebuilt, principally at the instance, and by the exertions of Sir William Blackstone, who built the spire at his own expence, and lies buried in the chancel, with no other memorial, than the family crest on the slab, which covers his remains : the new church was finished in 1769, the spire in 1777. In the old church before its demolition, were several monuments of the family of Molins, as appears by Capt. Symonds's notes, particularly those of Sir Michael Molins, who died in 1615 ; and Elizabeth Lady Molins, who died in 1622 : she was wife of Sir Barentyne Molins, who was made a banneret, under the standard of France, at the siege of Amiens, in 1597 : Sir Adrian Molins, their ancestor, married the daughter and heir of R. Court of Makeney, who was auditor to Prince Arthur^d. This family, some of whom appear to have represented the borough in parliament, had their seat at Clapcoe in the parish of All-Saints, on the north side of the castle, anciently a manor, which belonged successively to the families of Bereford^e, and James^f : the site of Clapcote-house, which has been long pulled down, belongs to the Rev. Mr. Barker. In St. Peter's church were some tombs also of the ancient family of James of Wallingford, who represented the borough in parliament, in the reign of King Edward III. : the mansion belonging to this family was standing in

^c Symonds's MSS. Brit. Mus.
^f Cart. Ric. II.

^d Berkshire pedigrees in the British Museum.

^e Esch. Edw. I.

1644, near the bridge. The rectory of St. Peter's is in the patronage of Henry Blackstone esq. son of Sir William.

The church of St. Leonard exhibits some remains of Norman architecture; and, by the arches in its south wall, appears to have been much reduced from its original size, by the dilapidations which it sustained in the civil war. The rectory is in the patronage of the crown. St. Mary's, which is the principal church of the town, and stands in the market-place, contains no monument worthy of notice: on the tower is the figure of an armed knight on horseback. The rectory is in the patronage of the crown. The advowson of All Saints was given by King Richard II. to the dean and chapter of St. Nicholas in Wallingford^s: the rectory which is a sinecure, the church having never been rebuilt, since it was pulled down in 1643, belongs to the master and scholars of Pembroke College in Oxford.

Richard de Wallingford, abbot of St. Alban's, a celebrated mathematician and mechanic; and John de Wallingford, a monk of the same abbey, who wrote a chronicle, published by Dr. Gale, are supposed to have been natives of this town.

There is a free school at Wallingford founded by Walter Bigg, alderman of London in 1659, and endowed by him with 10 l. *per annum*. The present master has enjoyed his situation 52 years. Mr. William Aungear and Mary, his sister, founded an alms-house for six poor people, about the year 1687: its original endowment which was very small, has been augmented by Job Wells esq. and Mr. Richardson.

Wallingford bridge, of great antiquity, is a substantial stone structure, consisting of 19 arches: there is a fund of 20 l. *per annum* for its repair, being a rent charge on houses, which is under the management of two bridgmen, chosen annually out of the burgesses.

LAURENCE-WALTHAM, in the hundred of Wargrave, lies about five miles to the south-west of Maidenhead, about nine east of Reading, and about ten west of Windsor. The manor was given, together with the whole hundred of Wargrave, to the see of Winchester by Queen Emma, mother of King Edward the Confessor: the grant seems to have been resumed by her son; for in the Survey of Domesday, all these manors are described; as then belonging to the crown, and are said to have been settled by King Edward the Confessor on his Queen Editha. It appears by a passage in Brompton, that the manor of Wargrave, including, it is most probable, Laurence-Waltham and Warfield, was purchased of King Richard I. in 1189 by

^s Dugdale's Monasticon.

Godfrey de Lucy, Bishop of Winchester, and by him again annexed to the see^h. Bishop Poynt in 1551, surrendered the whole hundred of Wargrave (in which this manor was included) to King Edward VI. who bestowed it on Sir Henry Neville, one of the gentlemen of his privy chamber: the grant was annulled by Queen Mary, who bestowed it on the see of Winchester, of which John White was then bishop: King Edward's grant was confirmed, and that of Queen Mary annulled, by an act of parliament in the first year of Queen Elizabethⁱ. Henry Neville, the last heir male of this branch of the family, who had assumed the name of Grey, as heir of his maternal grandfather Lord Grey of Werke, died in 1740: on the death of his widow^k, who afterwards had married to her second husband the Earl of Portsmouth, the manor of Laurence-Waltham, and hundred of Wargrave, were inherited by Richard Aldworth esq. of Stanlake, whose father had married the daughter and heir of Colonel Richard Neville. Mr. Aldworth, on his accession to this property, took the name of Neville, and was father of the Rt. Hon. Lord Braybrooke, the present proprietor.

The manors, which are parcel of the hundred of Wargrave, possess extensive privileges, under royal grants to the Bishops of Winchester; such as free chase, and free warren, exemption from the forest laws, and from the expeditation^l of dogs, &c. &c.^m

In the parish church are several tombs of the Neville family, among which is that of Sir Henry Neville, grantee of the manor, who died in 1593; he was a younger son of Sir Edward Neville, ancestor of the earl of Abergavenny, who was beheaded by King Henry VIII. in 1538. Sir Henry Neville, son of Sir Henry above-mentioned, was ambassador in France: he had two sons; Richard Neville, a royalist, colonel of a brigade to King Charles I. who died in 1676, and lies buried at Laurence-Waltham; and Henry Neville a celebrated republican writer, author of *Plato Redivivus*, and other political works; who died in 1694, and lies buried at Warfield. Col. Neville's son, Henry Neville, who was the last heir male of this branch of the family, took the name of Grey, as heir to Ralph, Lord Grey of Werke: he died in 1740, and lies here buried, as does also Elizabeth his widow, afterwards Countess of Portsmouth. In the church are some memorials also for the families of Wightwick and Rudge.

The great tithes of this parish, which were formerly appropriated to the priory of Hurley, are now the property of Lord Braybrooke, who is patron of the vicarage. In 1803, an act of parliament passed for inclosing the manor of Laurence-Waltham, and so much of Mr. Vansittart's manor of Hall as lies within this parish: the lands

^h Decem Scriptorum I. 1162.

ⁱ Ashmole's Berkshire.

^k Anno 1762.

^l See p. 363, note k.

^m See Ashmole.

were not exonerated from tithes. Laurence-Waltham lies within the deanery of Reading. There is an annual fair at this place on the 11th of August.

WHITE-WALTHAM, in the hundred of Barnerfh, and deanery of Reading, lies about four miles to the south-west of Maidenhead, and about eight west of Windfor.

The manor of White-Waltham, *alias* Berry in Waltham, was part of the endowment of Sir William Trussell's College at Shottesbroke: George Throckmorton, who perhaps was warden of that College^a, surrendered it to the king in 1543^o. It has long been annexed to the manor of Shottesbroke, and was purchased with it by the ancestor of Arthur Vanfittart esq. M. P. the present proprietor, in 1716. Mr. Vanfittart has also the manor of Smewins in this parish, purchased by his ancestor of Mr. Henry May, the same year in which he bought White-Waltham of the representatives of Francis Cherry esq. This manor had also belonged to Mr. Cherry, before it became the property of Mr. May: and the manor-house was for some time the residence of the learned Henry Dodwell^b. This house, which stood within a moated site, was an ancient seat of the family, from whom it derived its name; and tradition says that it was the country house of Prince Arthur, son of King Henry VII^c. In the early part of the seventeenth century, it was in the Norris family; Elizabeth Countess of Kelly, daughter of Sir John Norris, died seised of it in 1621^d: this lady had also the manor of Heywood in White-Waltham^e, which belonged to the priory of Littlemore in Oxfordshire, and had been granted in fee-farm to her father^f: after her death it appears to have passed to the Whitmores, of whom it was purchased, in 1627, by the ancestor of John Sawyer esq. the present proprietor. Sir Constantine Phipps, Lord Chancellor of Ireland, who married one of the Sawyer family, lived several years at Heywood-house^g.

A manor in this parish, which for a series of years^h had belonged to the Windfor family, acquired from them the name of Windfors: William Lord Windfor, by his will, bearing date 1558, bequeathed it to his son Sir Edwardⁱ. This estate, no longer called a manor, was purchased in the early part of the 17th century by Mr. Gardiner, together with a mansion, called Hill-house, which was let in 1653 to Sir Paul Neile, son of the Archbishop of York. William Neile, son of Sir Paul, who occupied this house after his father, fitted up an observatory here, for carrying on his astronomical

^a William Throckmorton, warden of Shottesbroke College, died in 1535; Robert Vere was warden, when the college was dissolved in 1545.

^o Records in the augmentation office.

^p Hearne's

notes respecting White-Waltham, &c. annexed to the 5th vol. of Leland's Itinerary.

^q Ibid.

^r Esch. Jac. I.

^s Ibid.

^t Fee-farm rolls in the augmentation office.

^u T. Hearne, in

his notes to the Chronicle of Dunstaple, vol. I. 255.

^v Inquisitions of the Fienes family temp.

^w Edw. II. and Edw. III.

^x Collins's peerage.

studies. Hearne speaks of him as a man of singular talents, and particularly eminent for his skill in mathematics and philosophy: he died in 1670, being then gentleman of the privy chamber to King Charles II. and lies buried at Waltham, where is a monument to his memory. This house and estate were sold in 1671, by the Gardiners, to Edward Pownall esq.: Mr. Cherry purchased it in 1684: in 1700, it became by marriage the property of Mr. Hayes, father of the late James Hayes esq. some time one of his Majesty's justices for Wales, who was born at Hill-house. After some intermediate alienations, the estate was purchased, in 1744, by James Theobald esq. who changed the name of the mansion from Hill-house to Waltham-place: about the time of Mr. Theobald's purchase, the house was in the occupation of the late Earl of Bute². In 1773, Waltham-place was sold to the Rev. Mr. Reid: it is now the property and seat of George Grant esq. whose father purchased it of Mr. Reid in 1776.

John de Fienes who died in 1321, was seised of the manor of Wolvely or Wolly in this parish, and the advowson of the free chapel of that name, which was held under Richard de Windfor¹. The manor and chapel are called, in writings, by the name of Wolvely or Wolly Fynes: the chapel has been long in ruins; the manor is the property of Dr. Loveday, whose family acquired it by purchase from the co-heiresses of John Finch esq. in 1703: it is now called the manor of Fienes or Feens.

In the parish church are the monuments of Sir Edmund Sawyer, one of the auditors of the Exchequer, who died in 1676, (father of Sir Robert Sawyer, Attorney-General to King James II. who was displaced by that monarch in 1687,) and that of Sir Constantine Phipps, Lord Chancellor of Ireland, (grandfather of the first Lord Mulgrave,) who died in 1723.

The great tithes of White-Waltham, which had been appropriated to the abbey of Chertsey, and afterwards given, with the other estates of that monastery, to Bisham abbey, when it was restored by King Henry VIII., having passed through various hands after the reformation, became the property of Mr. Theobald; and, having been divided into lots, were purchased at the sale of his estates, by the several land owners: Mr. Vansittart is patron of the vicarage.

An entry in the parish register, bearing date 1652, records, that "Mr. John Blower was vicar of this parish of White-Waltham, the space of 67 years; namely, from that of our Lord 1577, to the year of our Lord 1644, as appeareth from the time of his induction to the time of his death." It is said, that he removed thither from another benefice; and that, when he died, he was nearly 100 years of age.

¹ See Simpson's English Traveller, published in 1746.
Top. Brit. Berks.

² The inscription is printed in Bib.

A story is told of him, that, preaching before Queen Elizabeth, he addressed her by the appellation of “my Royal Queen;” which, a little while afterwards, he changed for “my Noble Queen.”—“What!” says her majesty, (in a sort of whisper, it is to be supposed,) am I ten groats worse than I was?” The pun being overheard by the preacher, he was so disconcerted, that he resolved never to preach another sermon, and for the future always substituted one of the Homilies.

Thomas Hearne, the celebrated antiquary, by whom the above story is related^a, was a native of White Waltham, being the son of Mr. George Hearne, the parish clerk: he was born in the month of July, 1678, as appears by the register.

There is no assemblage of houses near the church: those belonging to the parish are principally situated at Waltham-Street, Paley-Street, Littlewick-Green, and Littlefield-Green.

WANTAGE, anciently *Wanating*, or *Wanting*, a considerable market town, 60 miles from London, gives name to the hundred in which it is situated: the ancient appellation is still retained in the name of the hundred.

King Alfred, who was born at Wantage^b, then one of the palaces of the Saxon kings, gave the manor by will to his wife, Ealswith^c, daughter of Ethelred, Earl of Mercia, who survived him four years, and died in 904: when the Norman Survey was taken, it was part of the royal demesne. King Richard I. having granted it to Baldwin de Betun, Earl of Albemarle, the earl gave it, in frank marriage, to William de Valence^d, Earl of Pembroke, whose eldest daughter and coheir brought it to Hugh Bigod, Earl of Norfolk^e. In or about the year 1215, this earl gave the manor of Wantage to Fulk Fitzwarren^f, a Norman baron, whose family possessed it for several generations. Sir Richard Hankeford, who married the heiress of the Fitzwarrens, left an only daughter, Anne, who became the wife of Sir William Bouchier, afterwards summoned to parliament as Lord Fitzwarren^g: his grandson was created Earl of Bath. One of the coheiresses of the last Earl of Bath, and Lord Fitzwarren, (who died in 1630,) brought the manor of Wantage to the Wreys: Sir Bouchier Wrey bart. sold it to the Doyleys. It is now the property of Samuel Worthington esq. whose uncle, Mr. Giles, purchased it of the trustees of the Earl of Bradford, a lunatic. The manor and hundred of Wantage were anciently held of the manor of Hampsted-Marshall, in this county^h.

The manor of Brians, or Wantyng-Bryan, belonged, in the 15th century, to the family of Andrewⁱ, afterwards to the Hungerfords^k, and is now the property of William Stirling esq. who purchased it of the family of Boot.

^a In his notes relating to White Waltham, printed in Leland's Itinerary, vol. V.

^b Afferius de Rebus gestis Alfredi, p. 3. ^c Alfred's Will, printed at Oxford, in 1788, from a MS. in the possession of the late Thomas Astle esq. ^d Dugdale's Baronage, I. 63.

^e Dugdale. ^f Ibid. ^g Ibid. ^h See Pat. 10 Hen. VI. ⁱ Esch. Hen. VI.

^k Esch. Mar.

The manor of *Charlton*, a considerable hamlet in this parish, was for many years in the Carews¹. It is now the property of J. P. Bastard esq. M. P. in right of his wife, relict of the late Mr. Wymondefold.

Speed, on the authority of a catalogue of religious houses, ascribed to Gervase, of Canterbury, who flourished in the reign of King John, makes mention of a priory of black nuns, at a place called the Ham, in Berkshire^m, supposed to be Ham-House, in this parish, now the property of Mrs. Walcot, daughter of the late John Price esq. who inherits also, from her father, a leasehold estate, held under the dean and chapter of Windsor, called the manor of Priors: no mention of the priory of the Ham is to be found on record.

The Yates, of Buckland, had an estate in this parish, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, called the manor of Fotteswickⁿ.

Grove, a hamlet of Wantage, was given to the prior and convent of Bermondsey, in 1142^o.

Wantage is a market town, by prescription; the market day is Saturday. There are four annual fairs; the first Saturday in March, the first Saturday in May, July 18th, and October 17th: there is a statute fair, also, on the 11th of October: a fair, on the translation of St. Thomas the Martyr, was granted by King Henry III. in the thirtieth year of his reign^p. The town is governed by a chief constable. Round the old market cross is the following inscription: "Pray for the good Earl of Bath, & for good master William Barnabe, the builder hereof, 1580, & for William, Lord Fitzwarren^q."

It appears, by an enumeration of the inhabitants of Wantage, made by order of Cardinal Pole, in 1555, that they did not then exceed 1000: Mr. Pearce, in his agricultural survey of Berkshire, in 1794, calculates them at 2100. In the returns made to parliament, in 1801, the whole number of inhabitants in the parish is stated at 3043, of which 2339 were in the town, 60 in the hamlet of *West-Lockinge*, 247 in Charlton, and 397 in the hamlet of *Grove*. The inhabitants of Wantage are chiefly employed in the manufacture of coarse cloth and facking.

After the king's army quitted Reading, in the month of May 1644, they were quartered for some days in and about Wantage^r: on the 20th of November the same year, the king lay at Wantage^s.

The parish church is a spacious and handsome Gothic structure, in the form of a cross, built either wholly, or in part, by the benefactions of the Fitzwarren family. In the roof are the arms of Fitzwarren, and the royal arms; in the north aisle

¹ Esch. Hen. VI. Edw. IV. &c.

^m See Speed and Tanner.

ⁿ Esch. Eliz.

^o Manning's Survey, vol. I. p. 190.

^p See Cart. 30 Hen. III.

^q Capt. Symonds's MSS.

Brit. Mus.

^r Sir Edward Walker's Historical Discourses, p. 13.

^s Ibid. p. 120, 121.

are Hankeford, quartering Fitzwarren; Archbishop Bouchier's arms; and Bouchier impaling Fitzwarren. In the chancel is an altar-tomb, which has the effigies of one of the Fitzwarrens, with the order of the garter, supposed to be that of Sir Fulk Fitzwarren, who has been called the founder of the church; but it may be observed, that Sir Fulk is known to have been buried at Whittington. Perhaps it might have been intended for Sir William Fitzwarren, who was also a knight of the garter, being the 47th in succession from the first institution of the order; Sir Fulk Fitzwarren was the 51st. Against the wall of the north aisle is a brass figure of Sir Ivo Fitzwarren, descended from a younger branch of the same family, who died, seised of some lands in Wantage, in the year 1414. This Sir Ivo attended the Earl of Buckingham, in his expedition to the coast of France, and was with him at the siege of Nantes¹. In the church of Wantage are memorials also for the families of Wilmot of Charlton, and Grove of Grove. Capt. Symonds, who visited this church in 1644, makes mention of a tomb of Richard Davy, the public executioner, who died in 1493, with the effigies on a brass plate of himself and his wife, and an hatchet, as emblematic of his office.

When the survey of Domesday was taken, Peter, the bishop², possessed two thirds of the rectory: William, the deacon, held the other third under the king. John Duke of Bedford, regent of France died, seised of the rectory of Wantage, in 1436³: it was afterwards appropriated to the dean and chapter of Windsor, to whom it still belongs. William Henry Price esq. has a portion of tithes in the tithing of Bryan's fee: the dean and chapter are patrons of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Abingdon. An act of parliament passed in 1803, for inclosing the parish of Wantage, and the hamlet of Grove; the lands were not exonerated from tithes.

In the parish register at this place is the following remarkable entry, "September 1598—A strange miracle! The 19 daye was buried two men children, growing together from the brest to the navells, having all their right members each of them, being the children of John Russell and Elizabeth his wife."

Leland mentions Wantage as being remarkable for having two churches in one church-yard: one of the churches which he speaks of is an ancient building, now used as a school; the north door is of Norman architecture⁴.

In the year 1598, an act of parliament passed, for vesting the town lands of Wantage, given in the reigns of Henry VI. and Henry VII. for charitable uses, in twelve of "the better sort of inhabitants," to be deemed a body corporate, and to use a common seal. By this act, the revenues of the said lands are appropriated

¹ Dugdale.
² The only bishop of this name, in the reign of William Rufus, was Peter, bishop of Litchfield.

³ Esch. 14 Hen. VI.

⁴ See p. 205.

to the relief of the poor, the repair of highways, and the support of a grammar-school. An English school has from an early period been added to the other charitable objects, provided for out of the profits of these lands. The governors allow 30*l.* *per annum* to the master of the grammar-school, who must be a graduate in one of the universities, and 15*l.* *per annum* to the master of the English school.

Mr. Robert Styles, in 1680, founded and endowed an alms-house for 12 poor persons, who receive 3*s.* 6*d.* a week each.

In this town was born the learned Joseph Butler, bishop of Durham²: his nephew is now one of the oldest inhabitants of Wantage, and a governor of the town lands.

WARFIELD, in the hundred of Wargrave, lies about eight miles to the south-west of Windfor, and four miles and a half north-east of Wokingham.

The manor of Warfield is the property of Lord Braybrooke: its history is exactly similar to that of Laurence-Waltham.

The ancient family of the Stavertons, whose burial place is in the north aisle of the chancel, had an estate in this parish, called Staverton's manor: the heirs of this family married Henry Neville, the political writer, who, having no issue, bequeathed this estate to his nephew, Grey Neville, some time one of the representatives in parliament for the county of Berks. The seat of the Stavertons, (now a farm house,) was called Healy, or Heathly-Hall: the manor is now the property of Lord Braybrooke, who has another estate in this parish, formerly called the manor of Warfield, or Newenham, in Warfield, which belonged to the Norris³ family.

Warfield-Grove, the seat of Sir John Coxe Hippeley bart. was purchased by him of the late Admiral Sir George Bowyer.

In the parish church are several monuments of the Stavertons: Henry Neville, the republican writer already mentioned, lies buried in their aisle.

The rectory of Warfield, which had been appropriated to the priory of Hurley, was granted, in 1547, to Richard Cecil^b: Humphrey Harte died seized of it in 1557^c, soon after which it became the property of the Terry family, in whom it has ever since continued: they are patrons also of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Reading.

At New Bracknell, in this parish, are three annual fairs; April 25, August 22, and October 1.

WARGRAVE, which gives name to a hundred, lies on the banks of the Thames, about seven miles north-east of Reading, and three miles and a half from Henley, in Oxfordshire. It had anciently a market on Mondays, granted in 1218, to Peter

² Biograph. Brit.

³ Esch. Edw. IV. and Eliz.

^b Records in the Augmentation Office.

^c Esch. Ph. and Mar.

de Rupibus, bishop of Winchester^d. The manor and hundred were given to the see of Winchester, by Queen Emma, mother of King Edward the Confessor: they are now the property of Lord Braybrooke, having passed in the manner already mentioned under Laurence-Waltham.

In this parish, at the distance of three miles from the village, is Culham-Court, the seat of the Hon. Frederick West, pleasantly situated on the banks of the Thames, over against Buckinghamshire. The manor of Culham, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, belonged to the family of Neville^e: it was some time ago the property of Serjeant Stevens, and afterwards of Robert Michell esq. one of whose daughters was Mr. West's first wife. Within the plantations at Culham is Rose-Hill, a house built in the Chinese style, by Governor Hart, now the property of Mr. West, and in the occupation of Mrs. Rowe.

The manor of Bear-Place, in this parish, is the property and residence of Moses Ximenes esq. who purchased it about the year 1780, of the Hon. Capt. Hamilton. It had previously been in the families of De Grey and Silver, and is said to have been formerly in the A'Bears, a family still existing, and supposed to be of great antiquity; but their names are not to be found at the Heralds' College, nor among the Tower Records. Bear-Hill was, in 1746, the seat of Lady Preston^f.

In the parish church are some memorials of the family of Stevens, and of the Aldworths, paternal ancestors of Lord Braybrooke: there is a monument also for Mr. Thomas Day, author of *Sandford and Merton*, and other publications: he lost his life by a fall from his horse, as he was riding from his house, in Surrey, to his mother's at Bear-Hill, in this parish. It is inscribed with the following epitaph: "In memory of Thomas Day esq. who died September 28, 1789, aged 41 years; after having promoted, by the energy of his writings, and encouraged, by the uniformity of his example, the unremitted exercise of every public and private virtue."

"Beyond the reach of Time, or Fortune's power,—
Remain, cold stone, remain, and mark the hour—
When all the noblest gifts which Heaven ere gave,
Were center'd in a dark, untimely grave.
Oh! taught on Reason's boldest wings to rise,
And catch each glimmering of the opening skies;
Oh! gentle bosom! Oh! un sullied mind!
Oh! friend to truth, to virtue, to mankind;
Thy dear remains we trust to this sad shrine,
Secure to feel no second loss like thine."

^d Cl. Rot. 2 Hen. III.

^e Esch. Eliz.

^f Simpson's English Traveller.

The verses were written by himself, for some other occasion, and placed here by his widow, who thought them peculiarly applicable to his own character.

The rectory of Wargrave, which had been appropriated to the abbot and convent of Reading, was granted, by King Edward VI. to Richard Cecil: Lord Braybrooke is the present impropriator, and is patron of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Reading.

Dr. William Derham, author of the well-known work, entitled *Physico-Theology*, was vicar of Wargrave from 1682 to 1689^z.

Hare-Hatch and Kiln-Green are in this parish.

Mr. Aldworth, in 1692, charged the impropriate rectory with the payment of 5*l.* *per annum*, for the education of poor children of this parish. Mr. Robert Pigott, in 1796, gave the interest of 6700*l.* 3 *per cent.* Bank Annuities, for the instruction and clothing of 20 boys and 20 girls, of this parish: a part of the annual income is appropriated, very judiciously, by the will of the benevolent donor, to be paid in weekly allowances to the parents, to operate as an encouragement to them to send their children regularly to school, and continue them there a proper time: the allowances are to increase gradually, during five years, if the children shall so long continue in the school.

WASING, in the hundred of Faircross, lies eight miles to the south-east of Newbury. The manor, which had belonged to the college of Le Vaux, near Salisbury, was granted, by King Henry VIII. in 1543^h, to Sir Humphrey Forster, of Aldermaston, in whose family it continued till the year 1607ⁱ: it is probable, that it was then purchased by John Blacknall esq. who died seised of it in 1625. The heiress of Mr. Blacknall married Sir Ralph Verney, ancestor of the late Earl Verney. The manor of Wasing is now the property of William Mount esq.; his father bought it, in 1760, of Mr. Coope, who had purchased it of the Verney family. The manor house, a handsome modern building, is a conspicuous object from the Bath road: adjoining to it is the parish church, a small ancient structure, the inside of which has been lately modernized, and very neatly fitted up. Mr. Mount is patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Newbury,

WELFORD, in the hundred of Faircross, lies about six miles from Newbury, on the road to Lambourn: the manor, which had belonged to the abbot and convent of Abingdon, is now the property of John Archer Houlton esq. grandson of the late John Archer, descended from John Archer, some time one of the barons of the

^z Biograph. Brit.
esq. of Aldermaston.

^h Pat. 35 Hen. VIII.

ⁱ Papers in the possession of William Congreve

exchequer, whose son settled at Welford, in consequence of his marriage with the daughter and heir of Richard Jones esq. of that place. Abraham Jones, his grandfather, the first of his family who settled at Welford, was son of Sir Francis Jones, alderman of London^k. Welford was the seat of the late Mr. Archer, who had large property in this county.

In the parish church^l are memorials of the family of Mundy, and the monument of Anne, daughter of Sir William Read, who died in 1585: she was first married to Sir Adrian Fortescue, and afterwards to Sir Thomas Parry.

The Rev. Henry Sawbridge, the present incumbent, is patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Newbury. Thomas Sheafe, rector of Welford, who died in 1639, at the age of fourscore, published, a short time before his death, a work, entitled "A Plea for Old Age^m." The parsonage house is at *Wickham*, a hamlet of this parish, where is a chapel of ease.

The survey of Domesday describes two churches at Welford, and one at *Weston*, a large hamlet belonging to this parish, on the road to Lambourn. In the year 1364, John Aubrey conveyed to John de Cokkyng, and his heirs, the manor of Weston, which he had purchased of Sir William Pereyⁿ. This manor in Queen Elizabeth's time was in the Hungerfords^o, afterwards successively in the families of Moore of Fawley^p, and Jones of Ramsbury: it is now, by inheritance from the latter, the property of Sir Francis Burdett bart.

Easton, another hamlet of this parish, belonging to Mr. Archer Houblon, lies on the road to Newbury. The hamlet of *Benham-hoe* is also in this parish: the manor of Benham-Hoe *cum* Benham-Lovell, is the property of John Archer Houblon esq. having of late years passed with the manor of Welford: Mr. Houblon claims also a manor in Westbrook, as appurtenant to this manor. Benham-Lovel, formerly a separate manor, took its name from the ancient family of Lovel: it was held by the service of keeping a pack of dogs (*canum deynectorum*) at the king's expence for the royal use^q.

OLD WINDSOR, in the hundred of Ripplemere, lies about two miles south-east of New Windsor. It appears to have been an ancient town, which at the time of the Norman survey had 95 houses, paying *gabel* tax to the crown^r. The manor belonged to the Saxon kings, who are supposed to have had a palace at Old Windsor, from a very early period. It is certain that King Edward the Confessor sometimes kept his court here^s: he afterwards gave the manor to the abbot and convent of

^k Berkshire Pedigrees, Brit. Mus.

^l See p. 205.

^m Ant. Wood.

ⁿ Cl. Rot. 38 Edw. III.

^o Esch. Eliz.

^p Esch. Jac. I.

^q Blount's Tenures.

^r See the survey of Domesday,

"centum bagæ, quinque minus."

^s See Kennet's Parochial Antiquities, p. 53.

Westminster. King William the Conqueror procured it again from that monastery, by exchange, and it appears that, even after the building of Windsor Castle, the palace of Old Windsor was occasionally inhabited by the kings of England, till the year 1110, when King Henry I. having completed some additional buildings at the castle, which it is probable was at first intended merely as a military post, kept his court there for the first time at *Whitfuntide*¹; after this, it is supposed that Old Windsor soon lost its consequence. The manor of Old Windsor was confirmed, in 1328, to Oliver de Bordeaux, who at the same time procured the king's licence to impark his wood of *Foli-john* in the forest, and a charter of various privileges, particularly that all the lands which he had purchased of John de London should be out of the regard of the forest². These lands were held, it appears, by the service of finding a man with a lance and dart, to attend the royal army³. It is probable that the manor of Old Windsor was afterwards in the Trussells, and surrendered by them to the crown, in 1325⁴: it was held on lease under the crown, by the Powney family, as early as the year 1607: in 1786, the lease was purchased of the late Mr. Powney, by Henry Isherwood esq. who died in 1797; and it is now vested in his son, Henry Powney Isherwood, a minor.

The site of the royal palace at Old Windsor is not known, but it is probable that it was at a farm of Mr. Isherwood's, which is surrounded by a moat. The present manor-house was some time in the occupation of his royal highness the Duke of Gloucester, and afterwards of Lady Holland: it is now in the tenure of Sir John Harrington bart.

The manor of Shaw, in Old Windsor, which it is probable had anciently been part of the demesnes of the crown, was in the reign of Edward III. the property of William Palmorna, who surrendered it to that monarch: it has ever since been held on lease under the crown. In the reign of King Henry VIII. the lease was granted to Ralph Goodyer, of whom it was purchased by William Harvey, Norroy king of arms. At a later period it was on lease for many years to the family of Aldworth, and is now held by their representative Lord Braybrooke.

In the parish church are several memorials of the family of Michel, ancestors of John Michel esq. a great benefactor to Queen's College in Oxford, and of the Powneys; among the latter are the monuments of Penyston Powney esq. who died in 1758, and his son, Penyston Portlock Powney, the last of the family, who died in 1794. They both represented the borough of New Windsor, in several parliaments; the father was for some time one of the representatives of the county.

¹ Sax. Chron.
19 Ed. II.

² Pat. 2 Edw. III.

³ Pat. 5 Edw. II.

⁴ See Pat.

The rectorial manor of Old Windsor, which had been successively appropriated to the monasteries of Waltham Abbey, Chertsey, and Bisham, became vested in the Powneys soon after the reformation, and having been sold in 1786, together with the lease of the Crown Manor, now belongs to Henry Powney Isherwood esq. : the vicarage, which is within the deanery of Reading, is in the gift of the crown.

A great part of Windsor Park is in this parish, including three lodges, all now occupied by his majesty's domestics; the great lodge was built in the reign of Charles II. and was much improved by the Earl of Portland, and the Duchess Dowager of Marlborough, who successively enjoyed the office of ranger. It was afterwards the residence of the illustrious William, Duke of Cumberland, who died in 1765, and of his royal highness the late Duke of Cumberland, his majesty's brother. The little lodge or dairy, as it was sometimes called, was the residence of the late Thomas Sandby esq. the architect, who enjoyed the office of deputy ranger. This office is now enjoyed by General Harcourt, who resides at St. Leonard's-hill. The lodge at the entrance of the Park, near the Virginia water, which is called in Rocque's map the manor-lodge, is occupied only by servants.

Beaumont lodge, the late mansion of Henry Griffith esq. now of Lord Viscount Ashbrook, was purchased by Mr. Griffith, of Warren Hastings esq. some time Governor-General of Bengal. This place, which in Rocque's map is called Bowman Lodge, was originally built by Lord Weymouth, who died in 1705: it was afterwards the Duchess of Kent's; the Duke of Roxburgh bought it for his son Lord Beaumont, from whom it seems to have acquired its present name.

Holly-Grove, in this parish, which was enclosed from the waste in 1773, became the seat of Andrew Snape Hamond esq. who, being described of this place, was created a baronet in 1783. Sir A. S. Hamond, who is now comptroller of the navy, sold Holly-grove in 1788, to ——— Johnston esq. It has since undergone several alienations, and is now the seat of ——— Mackay esq.

A villa, built in the Gothic style by Mr. Richard Bateman, uncle of Lord Bateman, is now occupied by the Dowager Baroness Onslow. Other villas of principal note are, Old Windsor Lodge, the seat of William Webber esq. Penel Place, the seat of James Bonnel esq. and Woodside-house, the seat of the Rev. Dr. Ogilvie. *Cow-worth*, a kind of scattered hamlet, on the farther side of Windsor Park, is in this parish.

NEW-WINDSOR, a market and borough town, 22 miles from London, first rose to consequence by the removal of the royal residence, from Old-Windsor, which took place in the reign of Henry I.

When the survey of Domesday was taken, New-Windsor, if indeed there was then

any thing more than the castle, was neither a parish nor manor. The castle, which had been then lately built by William the Conqueror, was within the manor, and it is probable within the parish of Clewer, of which Windsor was formerly a chapelry : it afterwards became the seat of an extensive honor.

We are told that William the Conqueror kept his Whitsuntide at Windsor in 1071^z; that a synod was held there in 1072, wherein the province of York was made subject to Canterbury^a; that William Rufus kept his Whitsuntide at Windsor in 1095^b, his Christmas in 1096^c, and his Easter in 1097^d; but it is most probable, that all this applies to the palace at Old Windsor. Windsor Castle seems to have been intended by William the Conqueror more for a military post, for which by its situation it was well adapted, than for the residence of himself and his successors.

King Henry I. certainly kept his Christmas at Old Windsor, in 1105^e, and his Easter in 1107^f: but having enlarged the castle, "with many fair buildings," he removed his court to New Windsor; and for the first time kept the festival of Whitsuntide at Windsor Castle in 1110^g. This monarch was married at Windsor to his second Queen, Adelaide or Adelia, daughter of Godfrey Duke of Lovaine, in 1122^h; in 1127, he kept his Whitsuntide at Windsor, when David King of Scotland, and the English barons, swore fealty to the Empress Maud, the king's daughterⁱ. It does not appear that Windsor Castle sustained any siege in the wars between Stephen and the empress; but upon the peace, this castle being then esteemed, as to its importance, the second fortress in the kingdom, was committed to the safe custody of Richard de Lucy^k. King Henry II. kept his Easter at Windsor, in 1170, at which time he entertained William King of Scotland, and his brother David, who came to congratulate him on his return from Brittany^l. In 1175, the two kings, Henry and his son, held a parliament at Windsor^m; Henry the father, kept the ensuing Christmas thereⁿ: in 1179, the two kings held another parliament at Windsor, in which the kingdom was divided into four jurisdictions^o: Henry II. kept his Christmas at Windsor, for the last time, in 1184^p: his son who had shared the throne with him being then dead.

When King Richard I. went to the Holy Land, it appears that Hugh Pudsey, bishop of Durham, whom he had appointed one of the governors of the realm during his absence, had the custody of Windsor Castle, which his ambitious colleague William Longchamp, bishop of Ely, the Lord Chancellor, obliged him to surrender, retaining him in prison, until he had complied with his demands^q. Upon the agreement which took place in 1191, between Earl John and the Lord Chancellor, the king being still in Palestine, Windsor Castle was delivered in trust to the Earl of

^z Sax. Chron.^a Holinshed.^b Ibid.^c Eadmer.^d Sax. Chron.^e Ibid.^f Ibid.^g Ibid.^h Ibid.ⁱ Sax. Chron. and Kennet's Parochial Antiquities.^k Holinshed.^l Ibid.^m Ibid.ⁿ Ibid.^o Ibid.^p Ibid.^q John Bromton.

Arundel^a. When the news arrived, two years afterwards, of King Richard's imprisonment, John took possession of this castle, which was soon afterwards surrendered to the barons, who were in the king's interest^r: by a subsequent treaty it was put into the hands of Eleanor the Queen Dowager^s.

Maud, daughter of Reginald de St. Walery, and wife of William de Braose, a potent baron, having escaped from a castle in the county of Meath in Ireland, was taken by King John in the Isle of Man, and sent prisoner to Windsor Castle, where, as our historians relate, for her resolute behaviour, she and her son were miserably famished to death^t. King John kept his Christmas at Windsor, in 1212^u: in 1215, he betook himself to this castle, as a place of security, the barons being in such power, that he did not venture to quit his retreat, till after the signature of Magna Charta; which took place on the 15th of June that year, at Runnymede, between Windsor and Staines, the barons, having refused the king's summons, to attend him in his own castle^v: the king remained at Windsor some time afterwards. The war breaking out afresh, the castle was garrisoned the next year by William Earl of Salisbury; and Faukes de Brent^y; it was closely besieged by a large army, under the command of the earl of Nivernois, but without success, being bravely defended by Capt. Inglehard de Achie, with a party of only 60 soldiers^z. It appears, that a new barbican or out-work was built to the castle by King Henry III^a. In 1263, or according to Matthew Paris 1264, during the wars between that monarch and his barons, Prince Edward garrisoned Windsor Castle with foreigners, who nearly destroyed the town, and did much injury to the country round about^b: the same year it was given up to the barons, and the king made an order that Eleanor, wife of Prince Edward, with her daughter and all her household, should without delay, retire from the castle^c. The same historian tells us, that it was shortly afterwards again garrisoned for the king, and given up by Prince Edward to Simon de Montford, Earl of Leicester^d, who seems to have placed Geoffrey de Langele there as governor; for on the patent roll of the year 1263, appears a safe conduct for this Geoffrey, who had held Windsor Castle against the king^e. On the same roll is the appointment of Sir Drugo de Barentine, as keeper of the castle; and a summons for him and other knights, who had defended it, to attend the king in London, on important business: the castle was never long out of the king's hands: the chief citizens of London were committed prisoners thither in 1265, till they had made their peace, by the payment of large fines, for their adherence to the Earl of Leicester, and the rebellious barons^f.

^a Holinshed.^r Ibid.^s Ibid.^t Holinshed and Kennet's Parochial Antiquities.^u Holinshed.^v Ibid.^y Ibid.^z Mat. Paris.^a Esch. Hen. III.^b Holinshed.^c Pat. 48 Hen. III.^d Mat. Paris.^e Pat. 48 Hen. III.^f Holinshed.

A great tournament was held in Windsor park, on the 9th of July in the sixth year of King Edward Ist. That monarch, and his successor, King Edward II. resided frequently at Windsor, where several of their children were born. Their illustrious successor was called Edward of Windsor, from this his native place^b: in his reign, John, King of France, taken at the battle of Poitiers in 1357, and his son Philip, were prisoners in Windsor Castle on their parole, having the liberty of taking the diversion of hunting and hawking at their pleasureⁱ: David, King of Scotland, is said to have been a prisoner there at the same time^k.

All our historians agree, that Windsor Castle owes its magnificent fabric to the affection which King Edward III. bore to the place of his nativity. Walsingham relates, that in 1344, he built a chamber, which he calls the round table, 200 feet in diameter; this, by other accounts appears to have been only a temporary structure. Holinshed tells us, that in 1359, "the king set workmen in hand, to take down much old buildings belonging to the castle of Windsor, and caused divers other fair and sumptuous works to be set up in and about the same castle, so that almost all the masons and carpenters that were of any account within the land, were sent for, and employed about the same works;" but it appears, that various commissions for appointing surveyors, and impressing workmen, had been issued some years before; and that in 1356, William of Wickham, then one of the king's chaplains, was made clerk of the works, with ample powers, and a fee of one shilling a day, whilst at Windsor, and two shillings when he went elsewhere upon business; his clerk had a salary of three shil-

^a This appears from a roll among the records in the Tower, containing the account of Admettus the taylor, of sums of money expended by him, on this occasion chiefly at Paris, to the amount of 440l. 9s. 5d. sterling. Armour, and all necessary accoutrements were provided for thirty-eight knights, among whom were Earl Warren; Edmund, Earl of Cornwall; the Earl of Lincoln; the Earl of Gloucester, and Don Alphonso, son of the King of Spain.

^b The following record of the birth and baptism of this monarch, occurs on the clause roll of the sixth year of King Edward II.

"Memorand. qd Isabella Regina Angl. Confors Regis Edwardi Fil. Regis Edwardi in Castro ip'ius Regis de Wyndesore Die Lune px post festū S'ci Martini in Hieme Anno gre Millesimo Tricentesimo duodecimo ac Regni ip'ius Regis Sexto peperit Filiū sū primogenitū, qui in Capella Saun'cti Edwardi in eodem Castro Die Jovis-p'xio sequenti, per Ven'abilē Prēm D'num A. Dei Gra. TT. Sce Prisce Presbit'm Cardinale *, baptizatus fuit. Et fuerunt ejus Compates, Videlt, Ven'abiles pres R. Pictaven. D'ni Pape Cam'ar'†. J. Bathon. et Wellen ‡. W. Wygorn' § Dei Gra. Epi, D'rus Lodowicus Comes Devreux, Johēs de Britann' Comes Richemund, et Adomarus de Valencia, Comes Pembroch, Hugo Le Despenfer. Cl. Rot. 6 Edw. II. m. 22 dorso."

ⁱ Holinshed.

^k Camden.

* Arnaldas Noveli, a Gascon, the Pope's Vice-Chancellor.
Chamberlain to the Pope.

† R. Bishop of Poitiers,
‡ John of Drogheda, bishop of Bath and Wells, keeper of
the king's wardrobe and afterwards lord high treasurer.
§ Walter Reynolds, bishop of
Worcester, and Lord High Chancellor, afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury.



WEST VIEW OF WINDSOR CASTLE.

lings a week. In 1359, the architect's powers were still further enlarged, and he was appointed keeper of the manors of Old and New Windsor. The next year 360 workmen were impressed, to be employed on the buildings at the king's wages, some of whom having clandestinely left Windsor, and engaged in other employments for greater wages, writs were issued to prohibit all persons from employing them, on pain of forfeiting all their goods and chattels, and to commit such of the workmen as should be apprehended, to Newgate. The plague having carried off a great number of the king's workmen, in 1362, writs were issued to the sheriffs of several counties, to impress 302 masons and diggers of stone, to be employed in the king's works. The counties of York, Salop, and Devon, were to furnish 60 men each. Glaziers were impressed in the year 1363, very few commissions were issued after the year 1369, and none after 1373, so that it may be presumed that this noble work was then completed, comprising the king's palace, the great hall of St. George, the lodgings on the east and south sides of the upper ward, the round tower, the chapel of St. George, the canons' houses in the lower ward, and the whole circumference of the walls, with the towers and gates.

The appeal of high treason, brought by the Duke of Lancaster against Thomas Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, in 1398, was heard by King Richard II. on a scaffold erected within the castle at Windsor, when it being found impossible to reconcile them, a day of combat was appointed to take place at Coventry¹. The Earl of Salisbury and other lords, who conspired against King Henry IV. soon after his acquisition of the crown, were for a short time in possession of Windsor Castle^m. The castle continued to be the occasional residence of our monarchs, who from time to time made various alterations in the buildings, particularly King Henry the Seventh. No remarkable events occur, connected with its history, for many years before the period of the unhappy civil war, in the reign of King Charles the First.

Windsor Castle was garrisoned by the parliament, soon after the breaking out of the war, and Col. Venn, who afterwards was one of the king's judges, was appointed the governorⁿ; Prince Rupert made an unsuccessful attack upon it, in the autumn of 1642^o. The castle continued in the hands of the parliament during the whole war, and in the year 1648, became the prison of its unfortunate monarch, who, as Heath expresses it, kept his sorrowful and last Christmas at Windsor^p. Major-General Browne, who had been governor of Abingdon, a very active officer in the parliamentary service, having fallen under the displeasure of his employers, was sent prisoner to Windsor Castle in 1648^q. Judge Jenkyns was for several years a prisoner in this castle, from whence, in 1656, he was removed to Wallingford^r: about this time Sir John Lenthall was governor of the castle, under

¹ Holinshed.
Chronicle.

^m Ibid.

ⁿ Ibid.

^o Heath's Chronicle and Vicars.

^p Ant. Wood.

^q Vicars.

^r Heath's

Cromwell*. In the month of December 1659, Col. Ingoldsby and Major Wildman having appeared before Windfor Castle with a party of horse, it was surrendered to them by Col. Whichcote, who was then governor, for the use of the parliament†. The Earl of Lauderdale, the Earl of Lindsey, and Lord Sinclair, who had been confined four years in Windfor Castle, were discharged in the month of March 1660‡.

Upon the restoration, King Charles II. finding the buildings of the castle much dilapidated by plunder and neglect, caused it to be thoroughly repaired and richly furnished. During the greater part of his reign, he made Windfor his summer residence*. King James II. in 1687, received the Pope's Nuncio at Windfor Castle, with great state and ceremony, to the no small umbrage of his protestant subjects‡. King William III. resided there occasionally. Queen Anne, who, when Princess of Denmark, lived in a small house adjoining the little park, was very partial to Windfor. During the two succeeding reigns, Hampton-Court and Kensington were the favorite royal residences.

His present Majesty, who has always shown himself partial to this beautiful spot, has recently removed his residence from the Queen's Lodge to the castle, the buildings of which have been of late much improved, under the superintendence of James Wyatt esq. Surveyor-General of his Majesty's works. These improvements consist chiefly in the restoration of Gothic architecture, in those parts of the building which had been modernized in the reign of Charles II. The grand stair-case which has lately been completed, is very magnificent; the roof and lanthorn are highly enriched with Gothic tracery. The chapel of the castle, and other parts of the building, are about to be fitted up in the same style.

Windfor Castle, consists of two courts or wards, between which is the keep or round tower, sometimes called the middle ward. The upper court contains on the north side the state apartments, chapel, and the hall of St. George. The east and south sides have been lately fitted up for the residence of their majesties and the royal family. It is foreign from the intention of this work, to enter into a minute description of the several magnificent rooms, which constitute the state apartments‡, or the valuable collection of pictures which they contain. Among the most remarkable of those which have long decorated the castle, are the beauties of King Charles the second's court, the most celebrated naval heroes of the seventeenth century; and the two misers by Quintin Matsis, the blacksmith of Antwerp. The celebrated historical pictures of the embarkation of King Henry VIII. at Dover, his interview with Francis I. of France, and the battle of the Spurs, together with a picture of King Henry VIII. and his family, have been lately removed from Windfor, and graciously

* Ant. Wood.

† Whitlocke's Memorials, p. 693.

‡ Mercurius Politicus.

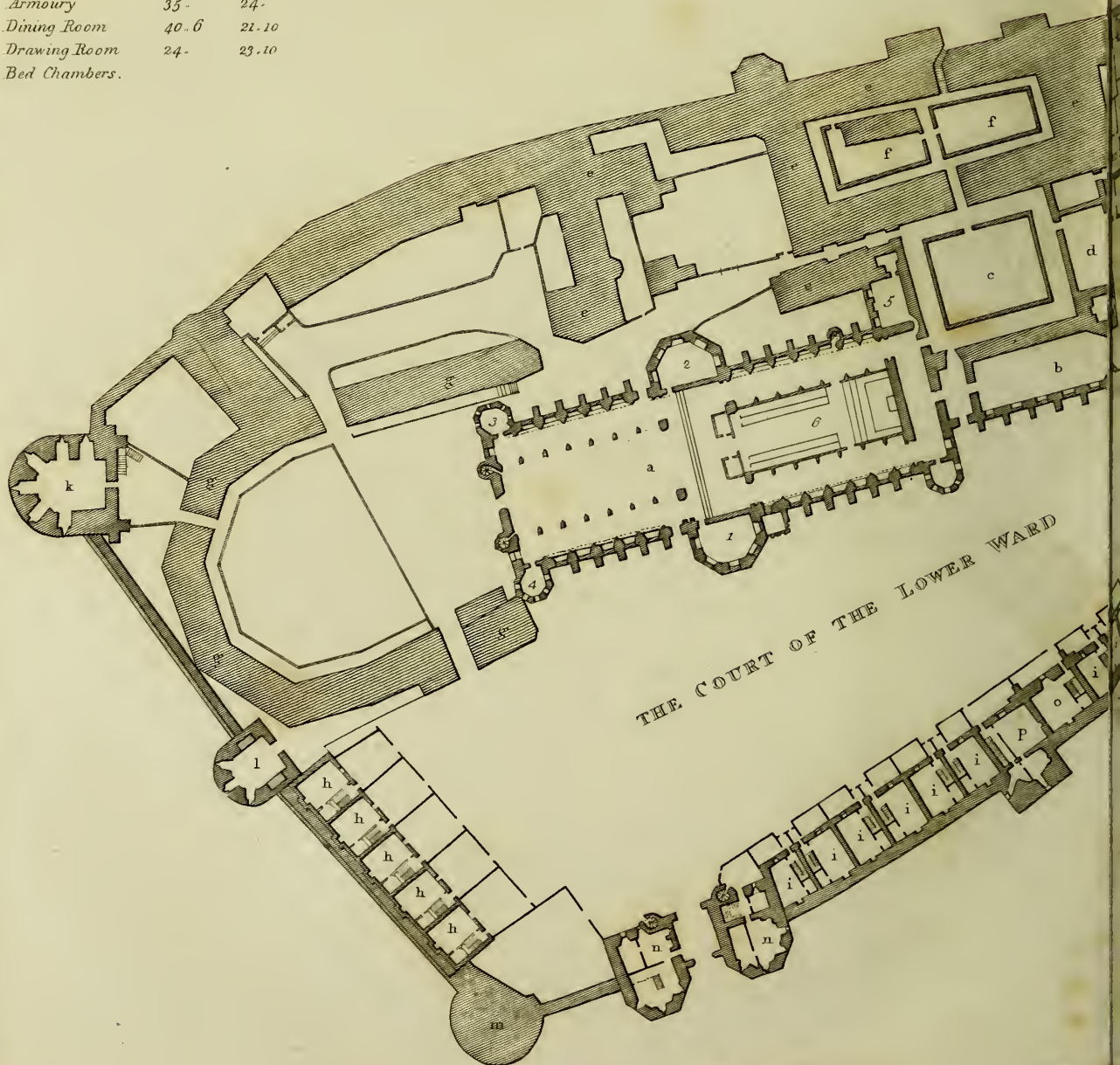
* History of Windfor. † Ibid. ‡ The names and dimensions of the several apartments will be best understood by the annexed plan.

REFERENCES to the LOWER WARD.

- | | |
|--|--|
| a. <i>S^t George's Chapel. 1. The Bray Chapel.</i> | k. <i>Julius Caesar's or the Bell Tower.</i> |
| 2. <i>The Rutland Chapel. 3. Urswick's Chapel.</i> | l. <i>Garter's Tower.</i> |
| 4. <i>S^t Mary's or the Beaufort Chapel.</i> | m. <i>Chancellor of the Garters Tower.</i> |
| 5. <i>The Chapter-house. 6. The Choir.</i> | n. n. <i>The Porter's lodge & Castle Prison called the</i> |
| b. <i>The Tomb-house.</i> | <i>Town-Gate, over these are the Apartments of the</i> |
| c. <i>The Dean's Cloister.</i> | <i>Surveyor of the Works, formerly the Guard Room.</i> |
| d. d. <i>The Deanery.</i> | o. <i>Governor of the Alms Knights Tower.</i> |
| e. e. <i>Apartments of the Canons.</i> | p. <i>Garter's Hall.</i> |
| f. f. <i>The Canon's Cloisters.</i> | q. <i>Tower anciently the Lieutenants afterwards</i> |
| g. g. <i>Apartments of the Minor Canons &c.</i> | <i>the Sec^y of States.</i> |
| h. h. <i>Sir Francis Gran's Buildings.</i> | r. <i>Winchester Tower.</i> |
| i. i. <i>Lodgings of the Alms-Knights.</i> | s. <i>Powder Tower.</i> |

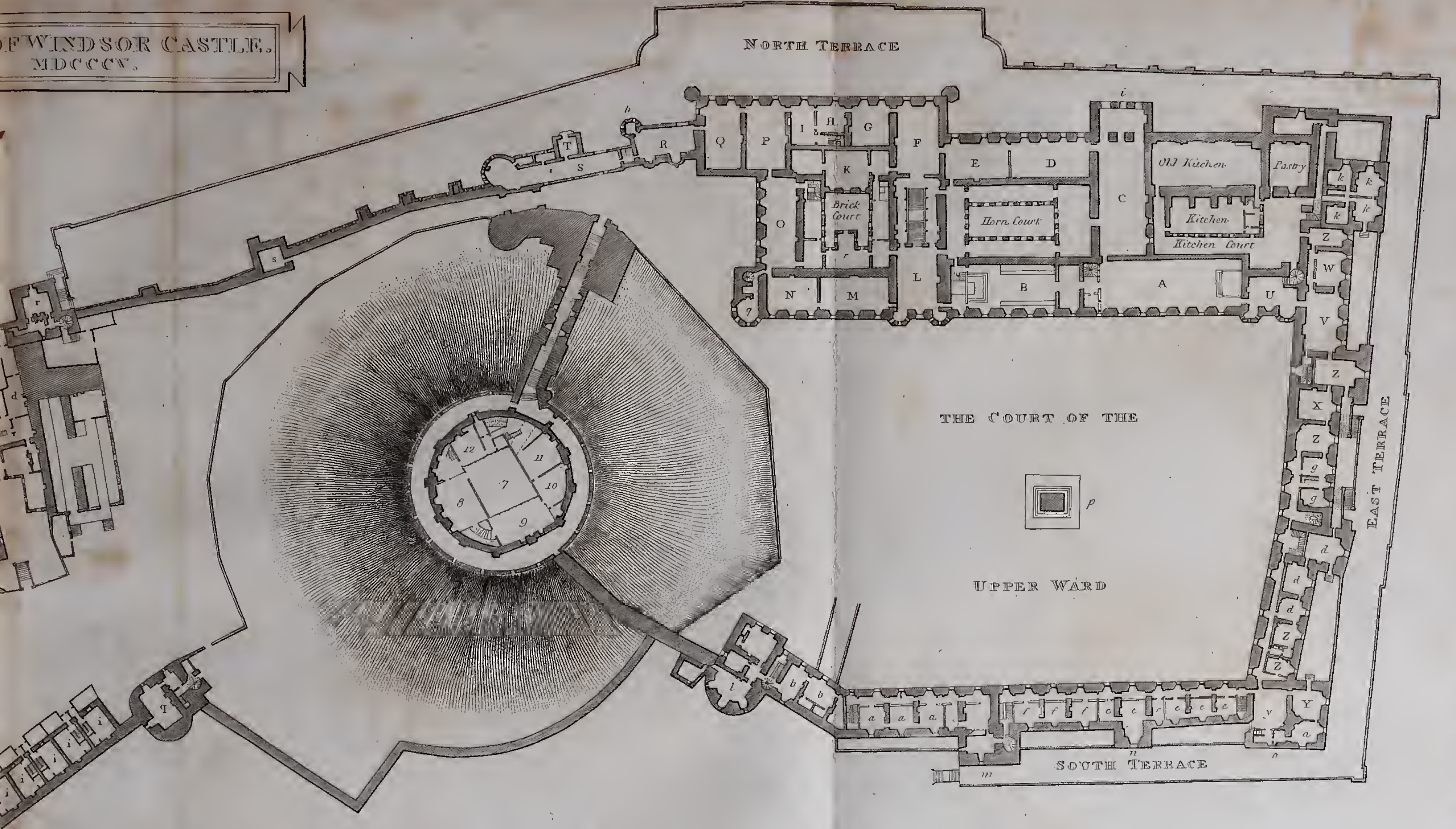
REFERENCES to the KEEP or ROUND TOWER.

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|-------|----|--------|
| 7. <i>An open Court</i> | 36. | by | 38. 6 |
| 8. <i>Armoury</i> | 35. | | 24. |
| 9. <i>Dining Room</i> | 40. 6 | | 21. 10 |
| 10. <i>Drawing Room</i> | 24. | | 23. 10 |
| 11. 12. <i>Bed Chambers.</i> | | | |



THE COURT OF THE LOWER WARD

40 30 20 10 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100



REFERENCES to the
TOWERS &c. in the UPPER WARD.

- h.* The Old Blenheim Tower.
- i.* The New Blenheim Tower.
- k. k.* The Board of Green Cloth Tower.
- l.* The Maids of Honour, or the Devils Tower, anciently the Earl Marshalls Tower.
- m.* The Wardrobe Tower, anciently the Chancellors Tower.
- n.* The Chancellor of the Exchequer's Tower.
- o.* The Prince of Wales's Tower, anciently the Watch Tower.
- p.* Equestrian Statue of King Charles II.
- q.* King Johns Tower.

REFERENCES to the
ROYAL APARTMENTS in the STATE STORY of the UPPER WARD.

A. St George's hall.	98.1 by 32.8	M. The Queens Presence Chamber	49.3 by 23.6
B. The Royal Chapel.	75. 31.	N. The Queens Audiance Chamber.	37.5 23.8
C. The Kings Guard Chamber.	78.8 32.	O. The Ball room.	63.7 21.7
D. The Kings Presence Chamber.	54.6 23.8	P. The Queens Drawing room.	45. 27.6
E. The Kings Audience Chamber.	44.6 23.10	Q. Ante-room formerly the Queens State Bed Chamber.	45. 24.
F. The Kings Drawing room.	45.9 30.9	R. The Queens State Bed Chamber, formerly the Queens Dressing room, and the Beauties room.	40. 20.
G. The Old State Bed Chamber.	26.4 26.	S. Queen Elizabeths Gallery.	92.11 13.3
H. The Kings Dressing room.	20. 17.4	T. The Queens China Closet.	12. 10.
I. The Kings Closet.	17.9 26.	U. The Prince of Wales's Old Guard Chamber.	34.4 21.
K. State Bed Chamber, formerly the Kings public dining room.	31.7 25.10		
L. The Queens Guard Chamber.	45. 27.6		
<i>r.</i> The Kings Private Chapel.			

REFERENCES to the APARTMENTS
on the EAST & SOUTH SIDES of the UPPER WARD.

- V. The Queens Music room.
- W. The Queens private Drawing room.
- X. The Queens private Dining room.
- Y. The Queens Bed Chamber. *y.* The Queens Sitting room.
- Z. Z. Other Apartments of the Queens.
- a. a.* His R.H. the Duke of Kent's Apartments.
- b. b.* His R.H. the Duke of Cumberland's Apartments.
- c. c.* Her R.H. Princess Augusta's Apartments.
- d. d.* Her R.H. Princess Elizabeth's Apartments.
- e. e.* Her R.H. Princess Mary's Apartments.
- f. f.* Her R.H. Princess Sophia's Apartments.
- g. g.* Her R.H. Princess Amelia's Apartments.





PLAN OF THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE UPPER WARD IN WINDSOR CASTLE.
MDCCC.V.



deposited by his majesty in the meeting-room of the Society of Antiquaries. Some of the most valuable pictures from the queen's house in St. James's Park, have been recently removed to Windsor; among these are Guido's celebrated picture of Venus attired by the Graces; a well-known "Holy Family," by Rubens; King Charles the first on horseback, with the Duke D'Epemon; another of the same monarch sitting, with his queen; and a family piece of his children, all by Vandyke. His Majesty is about to remove his library also, (the most complete and valuable perhaps that ever was formed by an individual,) from the queen's house to Windsor.

In the king's public dining-room are some beautiful carvings of fruit, fish, and fowl, by Gibbons. In a closet of the queen's dressing-room is the banner of France, presented every year by the Duke of Marlborough, on the 18th of August, by which tenure he holds Blenheim-house, built at the public expence, as a reward for his ancestor's great services, during a war with that nation. The state-chapel is painted by Verrio, and has some beautiful carving by Gibbons: this chapel is about to be fitted up in the Gothic style.

St. George's-Hall was built by King Edward III. as a refectory for the knights companions of the Garter: it is a noble room, 108 feet in length; the ceiling and walls are painted by Verrio, the subjects, consisting chiefly of the triumphs of the warlike founder, and his brave son, Edward, the Black Prince.

The origin of this illustrious order has been attributed, by tradition, to the trivial circumstance of the Countess of Salisbury dropping her garter at a ball; but that story has been effectually exploded by Ashmole, and other writers, who have treated expressly and amply on this subject. It will be sufficient for the purpose of this work to state, that King Edward III. in the year 1349, instituted a military order, or society, (as the words of the statutes express it,) within his castle of Windsor, of which the king of England was to be always the superior, or sovereign: the number of the knights companions, exclusive of the sovereign, was 25, being persons of illustrious rank, or great military prowess, who had served with their monarch, in the wars of France.

It was provided, by one of the statutes of the order, that the knights companions should, with their sovereign, if it could be conveniently done, celebrate the festival of their patron, annually, in Windsor Castle: in the early days of the order, this festival was kept there with great solemnity, and a magnificent display of tilts and tournaments, to which all foreigners were invited, under the protection of a safe conduct, particularly in the year 1358, when it was kept with more than usual splendour, in honour of John, King of France, then a prisoner in the castle: the duke of Brabant, and many other noble and illustrious foreigners were present; the queens of England and Scotland, and a great number of female nobility, both English and foreigners. At these feasts the knights performed their devotions, according to the statutes of

the order, in St. George's chapel, built by the founder for that purpose: the dinners were in the great hall, if the sovereign was present; if the feasts were held during his absence in foreign parts, they dined in the great guard-chamber: these solemn annual festivals were held, with few interruptions, for nearly two centuries. The new statutes, made in the reign of King Henry VIII. precluded the necessity of their holding the festival of St. George at Windsor; but it was, nevertheless, kept there during the reign of that monarch, and occasionally by his successors, with much splendour, although the reformation which had taken place in religion, necessarily abridged much of the magnificence of the devotional part of the solemnity.

Queen Elizabeth kept the festival of St. George at Windsor, with great state, in the year 1563; and to heighten the splendor of the solemnity, she caused peace to be, at the same time, proclaimed between England and France. It was determined a few years afterwards, that this festival should not in future be kept at Windsor, unless there was a knight to be installed. After this determination, the feast of St. George was kept wherever the court happened to be, by holding chapters of the order, and making solemn processions of the sovereigns and knights companions. It may serve to give some idea of the magnificence of these solemnities in ancient times, to mention that in the year 1616, it was decreed, that each of the knights companions should have 50 persons, and no more, to attend upon his person, at the yearly solemnity of the feast of St. George. By the late constitution of the order, the number of knights companions was 25, exclusively of the sovereign and his sons. In the month of January, 1805, it was determined by the sovereign, that the number of knights companions should be 25, exclusively of foreign princes; in consequence of which four new knights were elected to make up that number: the installation of these knights; and some others, who had not before been installed, took place the ensuing St. George's day, which was celebrated with much splendour and magnificence, being the first time that any ceremonial had been observed on that festival at Windsor, since the above mentioned determination, which took place in the reign of Queen Elizabeth^a. To be admitted a companion of this illustrious order, has ever been considered as the highest honour which the king can bestow upon a subject; and there is scarcely an European state or nation, whose sovereigns have not thought it an accession to their dignity, to be enrolled among the number: the bishop of Winchester is prelate, the bishop of Salisbury chancellor, and the dean of Windsor registrar of the order of the Garter. The chief officer in the Herald's college is styled Garter, principal king of arms, from the connection which his office has with this order^b: the usher of the black rod is also considered an officer. The office of

^a From the information of Sir Isaac Heard, Garter, principal king of arms.

^b The Garter, principal king of arms, has, in right of his office, a tower, in the lower ward of Windsor Castle.

prelate of the Garter was annexed to the see of Winchester, at the first institution of the order: the office of chancellor was granted, by King Edward IV. in 1475, to Richard Beauchamp, bishop of Salisbury, and his successors. In the reign of Edward VI. Sir William Cecil was made chancellor of the order, and the office was given, for many years, to laymen; but was restored to the see of Salisbury, on the application of Bishop Ward, in 1669. The office of registrar, which had been before occasionally held by the deans of Windsor, was annexed to the deanery in 1635.

To return to a description of the castle:—In the area of the upper ward is a bronze statue of King Charles II. on horseback, executed by Stada, at the expence of the munificent Tobias Rustat, formerly housekeeper at Hampton-Court: the fruit, fish, and other ornaments on the pedestal, are esteemed very fine: underneath this statue is a water engine, of a curious construction, invented by Sir Samuel Morland, master of the mechanics to King Charles II. for the purpose of supplying the palace with water from Blackman-Park, near Winkfield: the palace is now supplied from the Thames. On the north side of the castle is the Terras, made by Queen Elizabeth, which was extended, by King Charles II. along the east and south sides, its whole length being 1870 feet; forming the noblest walk of the kind in Europe, as well as the most interesting in point of situation.

The chapel of St. George, already mentioned, is situated in the lower ward of the castle. King Henry I. built a chapel at Windsor, dedicated to St. Edward the Confessor, and placed in it 80 canons, who were maintained out of the king's exchequer: this chapel appears to have been either rebuilt, or considerably enlarged and decorated, by King Henry III.: that monarch, in the year 1243, issued a commission to Walter de Gray, archbishop of York, to expedite the works at the king's chapel at Windsor, directing, that the workmen should proceed, as well in winter as in summer, till the whole was completed; that a lofty wooden roof, like the roof of the new work at Litchfield, should be made to appear like stone-work, with good ceiling and painting; that the chapel should be covered with lead, and four gilded images be put up in it, where the king had before directed images of the same kind to be placed; and that a stone turret should be made in front of the chapel, of sufficient size to hold three or four bells^b. Some remains of Henry III's building, as may be presumed from the style of the arches and architectural decorations, may be seen on the north side of the dean's cloisters, and at the east end of the chapel, behind the altar. King Edward II. founded a chantry for four chaplains and two clerks, and built a chapel in the park for four other chaplains, whom he afterwards removed to the chapel in the Castle.

King Edward III. who had been baptized at Windsor^c, rebuilt St. Edward's chapel there, and dedicated the new structure to the Virgin Mary and St. George.

^b Clauf. Rot. 27 Hen. III. p. 1. m. 5.

^c See p. 418.

In the year 1349, he augmented the number of canons to 23, besides a warden : and appointed 24 poor knights, for all of whom he built habitations, and granted land for their support : the college was settled upon a new establishment, in 1351, by the bishop of Winchester, acting as delegate for the pope, and made to consist of a *custos* or warden, 12 secular canons, 13 priests or vicars, 4 clerks, 6 choristers, and 26 poor or alms knights, besides other officers. The title of warden was changed to that of dean, in the reign of King Henry IV. and the change was recognized by a charter of King Henry VI. In the reign of King Edward IV. the college was incorporated : by the injunctions of that monarch four Tuesdays in the year were set apart for commemorating the bounty of benefactors. A commemoration of this nature is still observed, on the Sunday preceding each quarter day, as directed by a statute of Queen Elizabeth : these are called *Obit* Sundays, when a particular service, which is to be found in the prayer books, printed for the use of this chapel, is read, in addition to the usual service of the day. The college now consists of a dean, 12 canons, 7 minor canons, 12 lay clerks, one of whom is usually the organist, and 10 choristers.

The present magnificent fabrick, which exhibits one of the most beautiful specimens in this or any other kingdom, of that richly ornamented species of architecture, which prevailed towards the close of the fifteenth and the commencement of the 16th century, was begun by King Edward IV. who having found it necessary to take down the old chapel on account of its decayed state, resolved to build another on the same site, upon a larger scale, and committed the superintendance of the building to Richard Beauchamp, bishop of Salisbury. The work was not completed till the reign of King Henry VIII : the beautiful roof of the choir was put up in the year 1508. Sir Reginald Bray, prime minister to King Henry VII. and one of the knights companions of the order of the Garter, who died in 1502, succeeded bishop Beauchamp, in the superintendance of this great work, and was a liberal contributor to the building of the choir, and other parts of the fabrick : his cognizance is frequently repeated on the roof of the choir, as are the royal arms, and those of several noble families with the order of the Garter. The rood loft, and lanthorn were erected in 1516. The present organ gallery and skreen at the west end of the choir, have been lately erected ; the skreen is of Coade's artificial stone. The stalls of the knights companions, which are very richly carved in wood, exhibit the names and arms of the several illustrious and noble persons by whom they have been respectively filled. The altar-piece which represents the last supper, is by Mr. West, from whose designs the east window representing the resurrection of our Saviour, was executed in painted glass by Jarvis and Forest, and put up in the year 1788 ; a window by the same artists, representing the angels appearing to our Saviour, is placed at the east end of the south aisle. These splendid embellishments, the building owes to the provident care of his present Majesty, who was himself a



Fig. 1. Seal of the Warden and College of the Chapel of S^t George at Windsor,
drawn on a scale one third larger than the original.

Fig. 2. Seal of the Priory of S^t Mary at Lutfield. (see p. 613 and 688 *)

liberal contributor to them, and has expended large sums in procuring the whole of this beautiful structure to be thoroughly repaired, and its ornaments restored. - In the windows on the north and south sides of the altar, are the arms of the knights companions of the Garter, who together with the dean and chapter of Windsor, and the prelate and chancellor of the order, contributed to the expence of the east window, which is said to have cost 4000 l. The great west window, which is now filled with ancient stained glass, collected from various parts of the chapel, is intended to be decorated with the subject of the crucifixion, which is now executing by Forest, from a design of Mr. West's. It is to be hoped, that some method will be contrived for preserving the beautiful stone work of this window, which exhibits a singularly fine specimen of the florid Gothic.

In a vault under the choir, lie buried the bodies of King Henry VIII.; his Queen, Jane Seymour; the unfortunate King Charles I.; and a daughter of the late Queen Anne. King Henry VI. lies buried in the south aisle; his rival and successor King Edward IV. in the north aisle of the chapel.

King Henry VIII. had erected a monument for himself, mid-way between the state and the altar, which was nearly finished at his death, and inclosed within a grate. By his will he directs it to be completed, and the tombs of King Henry VI. and King Edward IV. to be made more stately. They were all despoiled of their ornaments in the civil war, and there is nothing now remaining to denote the place of the sepulture of King Henry VI. but the royal arms under an arch: nor is there any monument for King Henry VIII. Behind the altar, among other tombs, is that of the learned Dr. David Stokes, canon of Windsor, author of an explication of the minor prophets, and other works, who died in 1669.

In the stone work of the roof, at the east end of the south aisle, is a representation of King Edward IV. and Richard Beauchamp, bishop of Salisbury, kneeling at a cross. In an arch beneath, that prelate lies interred, and under an opposite arch is an inscription, importing that the bishop had given a missal, which formerly lay there for the use of the devout, and promising 40 days of pardon to every man that should say orisons for his soul. At the east end of this aisle is the Lincoln Chapel, in which is the monument of Edward Earl of Lincoln, Lord High Admiral of England, for thirty years, who died in 1584; with the effigies of the earl and his countess. Sir Henry Clinton bart. a descendant of the Earl of Lincoln, a distinguished military officer, was buried in this chapel in 1795.

A little lower is a small chapel, built for a chantry in 1522, by John Oxenbridge, canon of Windsor, and ornamented with paintings of scriptural subjects.

Still farther to the west is a chapel, built by Dr. Oliver King, bishop of Bath and Wells, who died in 1492: on the wall fronting it, are the figures of Prince Edward,

* See the introduction to Berkshire, p. 210.

son of King Henry VI. King Edward IV. Edward V. and Henry VII. (to all of whom he had been secretary,) with their arms, supporters, and devices: in the chapel is the bishop's tomb; and tablets in memory of Bruno Ryves, dean of Windfor, author of the *Mercurius Rusticus*, who died in 1677, and the learned critic, Francis Junius, who died in 1678, at the house of his nephew Dr. Isaac Vossius near Windfor, being then 90 years of age. There are some memorials also, for the family of Aldworth, paternal ancestors of Lord Braybrooke, and for many years lessees of Frogmore, from whom this is now called the Aldworth chapel.

In the middle of the south aisle is a spacious chapel, founded by Sir Reginald Bray, who died in 1502, and lies here interred: his arms and crest occur in several parts of the chapel, particularly in the beautiful screen, which separates it from the aisle. It is probable that the founder was buried in the center of this chapel, which he built for his place of sepulture; a leaden coffin of an ancient form having been found in that spot, on opening the ground for the interment of the Reverend and learned Dr. Waterland, canon of Windfor, who was buried in 1740. It appears by Sir Reginald Bray's will, to have been his intention that a tomb should be erected over his remains; his executors, perhaps, thought that the beautiful choir, which, by a passage in his will, seems to have been designed by him, and to have been principally, if not wholly executed at his expence, would be his best monument. It has been already mentioned, that the roof, which was not completed till six years after his death, is in memory of his splendid benefactions, ornamented (among other devices,) with his crest, several times repeated. In this chapel are the monuments of Giles Thompson, bishop of Gloucester, who died in 1612; Ralph Brideoake, bishop of Chichester, who died in 1678; Sir Richard Wortley of Wortley in Yorkshire 1603, and memorials for some of the canons of Windfor.

At the west end of the south aisle is the Beaufort Chapel, in which is an altar-tomb with the effigies of the founder, Charles Somerset, Earl of Worcester, who died in 1526, and his lady; and a splendid monument, supported by pillars of the Corinthian order, in memory of Henry, the first Duke of Beaufort, who died in 1699. In the same chapel lies buried also Henry the loyal Marquis of Worcester, who died in 1646. This chapel, which sustained much injury in the civil war, and was plundered of the brass screen which surrounded the Earl of Somerset's tomb, was restored by the first Duke of Beaufort, and has recently been repaired by the late duke.

In the south aisle lies buried near the south door of the choir, Charles Duke of Suffolk, a favourite minister and brother in law of King Henry VIII. who died in 1545. There was formerly a marble tablet to his memory: nothing now remains to point out the site of his grave, but his family name, Charles Brandon, inscribed on a marble slab. In the same aisle is the monument of Theodore Randue esq; keeper of Windfor palace, who bequeathed the sum of 6400 l. to various charities; and died.

in

in 1724; and among many other tombs, those of Martin Mey, by birth a Prussian, an eminent surgeon, who died in 1687; Thomas Doughty, canon of Windsor, preceptor to Queen Mary and Queen Anne, who died in 1701; and the Hon. Marmaduke Darcy, brother of the first Earl of Holderness, who died in 1687: this gentleman was sent by the Earl of Rochester into the north, to prepare the way for the restoration of King Charles II. and was afterwards one of the gentlemen of the privy chamber to that monarch.

In the body of the church was formerly to be seen the tomb of Richard Field, Dean of Gloucester, a theological writer, who died in 1615.

On the north side of the choir, adjoining to the altar, is a gallery, called the Queen's Closet, where their Majesties and the royal family attend divine service.

On the west side of the choir door, in the north aisle, is a chapel, built by Elizabeth, wife of William Lord Hastings, who was put to death by King Richard III. in 1483, and lies here buried: it is dedicated to St. Stephen, whose history is represented on the south side, painted in four compartments. This chapel is built with open Gothic arch-work, richly ornamented with crockets and pinnacles.

In the center of the north aisle, corresponding with that of Sir Reginald Bray, in the opposite aisle, is the Rutland Chapel, founded by Sir Thomas St. Leger, for the interment of his wife, Anne, Duchess of Exeter, sister of King Edward IV. who died in 1475. On the north wall of this chapel is a copper plate, gilt, on which are engraven the figures of the founder in armour, with his surcoat, and his lady in robes, with a ducal coronet^d, and the monument of George Lord Roos, (ancestor of the Duke of Rutland,) and Anne, his wife, daughter of Sir Thomas St. Leger and the Duchess of Exeter. In this chapel is a brass plate, curiously enamelled, in memory of Dr. Robert Honeywood, archdeacon of Taunton, and canon of Windsor, who died in 1522; and among others, the tombs of Baptist May, privy purse to Charles II. who died in 1696; Anne, relict of John Lord Frecheville, 1717; Mrs. Hannah Lowther, of Maske, in Cumberland, who died at the age of 103, in 1757; Theodore Aylward, late Gresham professor of music, who died in 1801; and that of Nathaniel Giles, Mus. Doc. which has been removed hither from the north aisle: he died in 1633.

At the west end of the north aisle is a chapel, called the Bread Chapel, or Urfwick's, from Dr. Christopher Urfwick, dean of Windsor, a great promoter of the building of St. George's Chapel, who having resigned the deanery, retired to his vicarage at Hackney, in Middlesex, and dying in 1521, was there buried. In this chapel is the monument of Col. Robert Brudenell, deputy governor of Windsor Castle, under his brother the Duke of Montagu, who died in 1768.

In the north aisle are the tombs of Wm. Child, Mus. Doc. who died in 1697,

^d There is an engraving of this plate in Sandford's Genealogical History, p. 377.

at the age of 91^e; Dr. Samuel Pratt, preceptor to William, Duke of Gloucester, a learned divine, and theological writer, who died in 1723, being then Dean of Rochester, and canon of Windsor; the Hon. Frederick Keppel D. D. Bishop of Exeter, 1778; John Buller esq. one of the Lords of the Treafury, 1786; and many others.

In the dean's cloisters, among many others are the tombs of Matthew Green, master of the choristers, an eminent composer, who died in 1703; and Capt. John Baynes, who died in 1711, at the age of 112. Several of those recorded in Pote's History of Windsor are not now to be seen; the inscriptions probably have been obliterated: among these are memorials for Thomas Browne, who died canon of Windsor in 1673, a learned writer, who, among other works, published a translation of Camden's annals of Queen Elizabeth, with corrections and additions; and for Capt. Thomas Baskerville, who had maintained a troop of horse for King Charles I. at his own cost, and died one of the Poor Knights of Windsor, in 1711, at the age of 106.

At the east end of St. George's Chapel, is an edifice, called the tomb-house, built by King Henry VII. and intended for his burial-place, before he erected that magnificent structure adjoining Westminster Abbey, which goes by his name. This building being then unappropriated, was granted by King Henry VIII. to Cardinal Wolsey, who began to erect there a most sumptuous monument for himself^e, intending it for the place of his interment. The design of this monument, which was never finished, is said to have exceeded in magnificence that of King Henry VII.; Benedetto of Florence had received 4250 ducats for what he had executed before the Cardinal's fall, and the expence of gilding what was then completed, which was not more than half, is said to have exceeded 380l. The unfinished tomb was demolished in the civil war: King Charles I. is said to have designed this chapel for the burial-place of himself and family. In the reign of King James II. it was fitted up as a chapel, for the celebration of divine service according to the rites of the Roman Catholic religion. Verrio was employed to paint the ceiling and walls; and that monarch, to the great disgust of his protestant subjects, publicly attended therein the celebration of mass. After his reign, the chapel had been suffered to go to decay, till the year 1800, when his majesty gave orders that it should undergo a thorough repair, intending it as a place of interment for his family. Considerable progress has been made in the work, the decayed battlements and other external ornaments having been completely restored.

^e He was for 65 years organist at Windsor and Whitehall: the body of the choir of this chapel, was paved at his expence.

^f The supposition which is entertained by some writers, that the cardinal intended this monument for the king, seems to be erroneous. See Pote's History of Windsor, p. 61. where are quotations from Fiddes's Life of Wolsey, and Lord Bacon's Life of King Henry VIII.

The lodgings of the Dean and Canons are situated in the lower ward behind St. George's Chapel: the old part of the deanery was built in 1500, by Dean Urfwick. In the great hall are the arms of the sovereign and knights companions of the order of the garter. In an apartment called the Garter-room, the knights companions meet to robe on the morning of an installation (if the sovereign should not be present) and from thence, upon such occasions, the procession begins. In this room is a very ancient screen, on which are the arms of the several sovereigns and knights companions, from the first institution of the order. There are two cloisters, called the deans and canons cloisters; in the latter are the houses of the canons. The apartments of the minor-canons, clerks, and other officers of the college, are situated at the west end of St. George's Chapel, the buildings are in a semicircular form, supposed to be in allusion to the fetlock, a device of the founder, King Edward IV.

On the south side of the lower ward, are the apartments of the alms knights, or, as they are more commonly called, poor knights of Windsor. This charitable institution owes its origin to King Edward III. founder of the order of the garter, who intended it exclusively for the provision of such persons, as having deserved well of their country by their military services, had fallen into poverty. Their number was originally 24; afterwards by the founder, increased to 26, to correspond with the number of knights companions of the garter. Their duty was to attend constantly on the celebration of divine service, and to pray for the prosperity of the sovereign and knights companions of the garter. Their allowance was one shilling a day for their maintenance, and 40s. *per annum* for other necessaries paid out of the endowment of the college, being the same sum which was originally allowed for the canons in residence.

By an act of parliament, in the reign of King Edward IV. the college was discharged of the maintenance of the alms knights. It does not appear how they were supported from this time till their establishment by Queen Elizabeth, but the institution was kept up, and among those who belonged to it, during this interval, were many who are supposed to have obtained admittance into the fraternity, rather from motives of devotion, than for need of the endowment, whatever it was, as Thomas Hulme, some time Clarencieux king of arms; Lodowick Carly, the king's physician; John Mewtes, secretary of the French tongue, and Bartholomew Westby, made a baron of the Exchequer in 1509. Sir Robert Champlain, who had fought on the side of King Henry VI. in the wars between the houses of York and Lancaster, and afterwards distinguished himself in foreign service, particularly by fighting against the Turks, under the banners of the King of Hungary, when he had the misfortune to be made a prisoner, being reduced to great distress by the payment

of

of a heavy ransom, was admitted one of the alms knights of Windfor, on the plea of poverty, by King Henry VII.

The houses for the poor knights were built in the reign of Queen Mary. Queen Elizabeth, in the first year of her reign, settled the institution upon its present establishment, according to the intention of her royal father, who by his will, had given lands of the annual value of 600*l.* to the dean and chapter, for the support of the alms knights. According to the directions of his will, they were to be thirteen in number, being gentlemen decayed in wars, or such like services of the realm. By the statutes of Queen Elizabeth, the knights are to be unmarried, and in case of marriage, to lose their place, except by the special favour of the sovereign: their place also is to become vacant, if any lands or revenues fall to them, of the yearly value of 20*l.* The annual allowance of each knight, according to this establishment, is 18*l.* 5*s.* besides 3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* for a gown or furcoat. King James I. was pleased to double their allowance, by an additional pension of 18*l.* 5*s.* payable out of the exchequer. The governor of the alms knights has an additional salary of 3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* besides perquisites.

In the reign of Charles I. five other knights were added by the benefactions of Sir Peter Le Maire, and Sir Francis Crane, some time chancellor of the order of the garter. Sir Peter Le Maire, by his will, bearing date 1631, bequeathed the sum of 1500*l.* to be disposed of in charitable uses, at the discretion of his brother-in-law, Sir Francis Crane, who having formed the intention of founding five alms knights places, appropriated this money towards building the houses. The work was left unfinished at his death, but after much delay, occasioned by a litigation with his executors, was finally completed according to his intentions, and the sum of 200*l.* *per annum* for pensions to the knights, and 30*l.* *per annum* for repairs, charged upon the manor of Carbrook, in Suffex, which had been his property. The decree was made in 1659, and after the restoration of King Charles II. it was decreed by him as sovereign of the order, that the new knights should be subject to the same rules, and partakers of the same privileges as those on the old foundation. Sir Francis Crane's knights now divide the full sum of 230*l.* *per annum*, and repair their own houses, which are situated at the south-west corner of the lower ward. The houses of the knights on the old establishment are repaired by the crown.

Samuel Travers esq. by his will, bearing date 1724, directed that seven houses should be built out of his personal estate, in or near the castle of Windfor, for the residence of an additional number of poor knights, and left an estate in Essex of 500*l.* *per annum* for their maintenance, directing that the senior, who should be governor, should receive the sum of 72*l.* *per annum*, the others 60*l.* and that the remainder, after deducting repairs, should be equally divided among them. A very
long

long litigation in Chancery took place on the subject of this will, and it is but recently that the establishment has taken effect. The poor knights, who by the appointment of Mr. Travers are to be superannuated or disabled lieutenants of English men of war, unmarried men, without children, have been elected. The houses which stand in Datchet lane, on the north side of the castle, were completed in 1802. The governor of Windsor Castle, the dean of Windsor, and the provost of Eton College, are visitors under the founder's will, the vacancies are to be thus supplied; the commissioners of the navy choose three persons for each vacancy, the Lords of the Admiralty select two out of the three, and his Majesty nominates one of them.

Between the two wards of Windsor Castle, in what is sometimes called the middle ward, stands the keep or round tower, which is the lodging of the governor of the castle. A flight of 100 stone steps leads to the governor's apartments, which are spacious and handsome, and command a most beautiful and extensive view over the interesting and picturesque scenes of the adjacent country. In this tower is a guard-room, or magazine of arms, in which are preserved some curious specimens of ancient muskets, pikes, and bandoleers.

The office of constable, or governor of the castle, is of great antiquity and honor, and of extensive power, both military and civil, it being his duty to defend the castle against the king's enemies, and to take charge of all prisoners brought thither. The last state prisoner confined in this castle was Marshal Belleisle. As a civil officer, the constable is judge of a court of record, held by prescription, for the determination of pleas between party and party, within the precincts of Windsor forest, the practice of which is at present suspended; and as chief forester has cognizance of all offences against the forest laws, with power to imprison offenders: but the prison, the room where the court of record was held, and the apartments of its officers, which were at the entrance of the lower ward, are now converted into a magazine, guard room, and apartments for the officers on guard in the castle.

The first governor of Windsor Castle, who was appointed by William the Conqueror, by the name of Castellan, was Walter Fitz-Other, ancestor of the Earls of Plymouth, who, from that circumstance, took the name of De Windsor. Hubert Walter, lord chancellor and archbishop of Canterbury, was made keeper of Windsor Castle and forest by King John, in 1201; Sir Simon de Burley, K. G. was appointed to this high office by King Richard II. in 1377, and it was confirmed to him for life, in 1383; Sir Piers de Courteney, son of Hugh, Earl of Devon, was made constable in 1389; Sir John Stanley was constable in 1409; John Walerton, in the reign of Henry V.; Edmund Beaufort, Earl of Dorset, afterwards Duke of Somerset, in 1439; and Thomas Windsor, a descendant of the first governor, in 1483. During the Protectorate of Cromwell, this office was held by the learned

Sir

Sir Bulstrode Whitlocke: it has since been held successively by Henry, Duke of Norfolk; George, Duke of Northumberland; Charles, Earl of Carlisle; Charles, Duke of St. Albans; and the late Duke of Montagu, whose brother, the Earl of Cardigan, is the present constable.

The circumference of the whole castle, according to Batty Langley's admeasurement, is 4180 feet; the length, from east to west, 1480 feet; and the area, exclusive of the terras walks, about 12 acres.

On the south side of the castle is a modern mansion, called the Queen's Lodge, where the royal family resided for several years, during the summer season: not far from it is a house, called the lower lodge, formerly a seat of the Duke of St. Alban's, purchased by his present Majesty, and occupied by some of the younger branches of the royal family: it is said to have been built by the celebrated Eleanor Gwynn, mother of the first Duke of St. Alban's^s.

The forest, which extended formerly into a part of Buckinghamshire, and comprised a large district of Surrey, was then computed to be 120 miles in circumference: its present circuit, according to Rocque's Survey, is somewhat more than 56 miles and a half, including the town of Wokingham, and several villages^h: the neighbourhood of Shottesbroke and White-Waltham was anciently within a district of the forest, called the bailiwick of Twitchen, and afterwards Fines, or more properly Fienes Bailiwick, from the family of Fienes, who were hereditary bailiffs: this office afterwards came, by inheritance, to the Nevilles, as appears by Norden's Survey in the British Museum, taken in 1607, at which time the Lovelace family were keepers of Cranbourn Walk: the present ranger of the forest and great park is Prince William, son of his Royal Highness, the Duke of Gloucester: Lord Cranley is the out-ranger: the Duke of Gloucester is ranger of Cranbourn Chace, and his daughter, the Princess Sophia, of New Lodge Walk.

The great park, according to Norden's Survey, formerly contained 3650 acres: its principal entrance from the town leads to a noble avenue of elms, nearly three miles in length: the ranger's lodge, together with a great part of the park, is within the parish of Old-Windsor: the ranger'ship of the great and little park, at Windsor, was given by King William, about the year 1696, to the Earl of Portland; and upon his death, which happened in 1719, was granted by Queen Anne, for three lives, to Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough: on the expiration of this grant, the ranger'ship of the great park was given, in 1746, to his Royal Highness, William, Duke of Cumberland, by whom the lodge was much improved and altered; and that of the little park to the late Earl of Pomfret: the late Duke of Cumberland, his Majesty's brother, was appointed ranger of the great park, on the death of his illustrious uncle: the present ranger is Prince William, son of his Royal

^s See Ashmole's Berks.

^h See p. 190.

Highness the Duke of Gloucester; but on the death of the late duke, in 1791, his Majesty took the management of the park into his own hands: it was then found to contain 3800 acres, the greater part of which his Majesty, with a very laudable zeal for the interests of agriculture, has devoted to experiment, it having been dis-parked, and converted into farms, under the direction of Mr. Kent, who introduced there the Norfolk and Flemish modes of husbandry: the park, which is reduced from 3800 to 1800 acres, maintains 3000 head of deer, being the same number with which it was before stockedⁱ.

The little park, on the north and east sides of the castle, which, in Norden's time, contained only 280 acres, was enlarged and inclosed with a brick wall, by King William III.; it now contains about 500: the ground on the north side, which was laid out as a garden by Queen Anne, has been since converted into a lawn: on the south-east is the lodge, which was the residence of the late Earl of Pomfret, when ranger: the present ranger is General Richard Grenville: the lodge, which his Majesty keeps in his own hands, is occupied by servants; near it is the royal dairy, and a kennel for the king's harriers. In this park stood the celebrated Herne's oak, immortalized by Shakespeare, who lays one of the scenes of the Merry Wives of Windsor at Frogmore.

Frogmore house, which had been sold among the crown lands during the civil war, became afterwards the seat of George Fitzroy, Duke of Northumberland, one of the natural sons of King Charles II. whose widow, the Duchess Dowager, died there at a very advanced age. Frogmore was for a time the residence of Marshal Belleisle, after he was released from his confinement in the round tower^k: after this, it was the seat of Sir Edward Walpole K. B. Of late years it has become a favourite retirement of her present Majesty, who purchased the lease of Mrs. Anne Egerton, by whom it was held under the crown. Her Majesty is at present making some considerable additions to the house; the gardens have been laid out with much taste by Major Price, late vice-chamberlain to her Majesty.

In the year 1276, Windsor was declared a free borough by King Edward I. who granted to the burgesses a mercatorial gild, and various privileges and exemptions: the same monarch, in the 9th year of his reign, granted the town of Windsor to the burgesses, subject to the payment of a fee-farm rent of 17*l. per annum*^l. King Edward IV. incorporated them, by the name of the mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses: King Charles II. gave the corporation the manor of Underore, within the limits of

ⁱ Pearce's Agricultural Survey of Berks.

^k History of Windsor, 4to. 1749, p. 20.

^l See Pat. 9. Edw. I. the condition of the grant is thus expressed in the record: "Ita quod bene & fideliter se habeant & mercatoribus alienigenis & indigenis; necnon et pauperibus ejusdem villæ fieri faciant justiciæ complimentum."

the borough : by the last charter of that monarch the body corporate consists of 28 or 30 members, 13 of whom are styled benchers, and ten of these benchers aldermen. One of the aldermen is annually chosen mayor, and two of the junior members are chosen bailiffs by the mayor and aldermen : the officers of the corporation are, a high steward, under steward, and common clerk. The corporation, by royal grant, hold a weekly market at Windsor on Saturdays, and three annual fairs ; Easter Tuesday, July 5, and St. Edward's day, October 25 : the Midsummer fair is no longer celebrated as a mart for wool. The market cross erected by John Sadler in 1380, and repaired by Godfrey Goodman, bishop of Gloucester in 1635, was demolished at the beginning of the civil war.

The guildhall or townhouse was built in 1686, at the expence of the corporation, aided by subscriptions : it is adorned with portraits of the Kings and Queens of England from King Charles I. to Queen Anne ; Archbishop Laud, Theodore Randue esq. and other benefactors. At the north end of the town house is a statue of Queen Anne, placed there by the corporation in 1707, and at the south end, that of her royal consort, George Prince of Denmark.

Windsor was for a while the county town, under the charter of King Edward I. already mentioned, bearing dated 1276, by which that monarch grants, that the justices itinerant for the county of Berks should hold their assizes at Windsor, and that the county gaol which had before been at Wallingford should be removed thither ; but this alteration having been found very inconvenient, Windsor being situated in a remote corner of the county, the gaol was removed to Reading, in consequence, it is probable, of a petition to parliament in 1314^m. It appears by a record lately discovered at the tower, that the King, (Edward II.) had in the first instance given a decided negative to the petition, and declared that the gaol should not be in any other castle than his ownⁿ.

The borough of New-Windsor sent two burgeses to parliament in the reign of Edw. I. but omitted making any returns from 1340 to 1446 : Browne Willis supposes this omission to have happened through the indulgence of the crown, it being then esteemed a burthen rather than an honour and advantage to send representatives to parliament. The right of election in this borough, which had been frequently contested, was finally determined to be in the inhabitants at large, not receiving alms. Sir Julius Cæsar, the celebrated civilian, twice represented the borough of New-Windsor in parliament in the reign of Queen Elizabeth : Sir Christopher Wren was elected by the corporation in 1690, but thrown out upon petition.

^m See Rolls of Parliament.
en altre chatel q'en le seon."

ⁿ The words of the record are, " Le Roi ne veut pas avoir sa gaole

The number of inhabitants at Windsor in 1555, according to an account taken by order of Cardinal Pole, was only 1000; the number in 1801, according to the returns made to parliament under the population act, was 3461. An act of parliament for paving the town of New Windsor passed in 1585: another act for the same purpose passed in 1769.

In the parish church, which was originally a chapel to Clewer, are some remarkable monuments: that of James Pagett esq. one of the barons of the Exchequer, who died in 1638, has busts of himself and his lady, Nazareth daughter of Robert Harris of Reading; she had been twice before married, and surviving her last husband 28 years, died in 1666, at the age of 88. The monument of the learned Sir Thomas Reeve, Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, who resided at Windsor, and died in 1736, was erected at the expence of Dr. Mead; it is adorned with busts of the chief justice and his lady, by Scheemaker: the monument of Topham Foot esq. who died in 1712, is adorned with a bust of the deceased by the same artist: that of Rebecca, daughter of Sir George Southcot of Dartmouth Castle, who died in 1642, is by Marshall. There are memorials also for Sir Thomas Reeve of Holyport, heir of the lord chief justice, who died in 1777; the families of Braham, Starkey, Foot, Hale, Topham, and Litton; and a tablet to the memory of the late celebrated physician, Dr. William Heberden, who died in 1801: Dr. Heberden had a house at Windsor near the castle, lately purchased by his Majesty for the residence of the Princess Charlotte, daughter of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

The great tithes of Old and New-Windsor were successively appropriated to the monasteries of Waltham Abbey, Chertsey, and Bisham: they are now the property of Henry Powney Isherwood, a minor. The vicarage is in the deanery of Reading, and in the gift of the crown: the vicarage house was the benefaction of Wm. Evington in 1487: Theodore Randue esq. gave 200l. towards augmenting the vicarage.

On the north side of the church yard is a free school, erected in the year 1706, for the reception of 30 boys and 20 girls, who are clothed and educated by the interest of various legacies, aided by a subscription of the inhabitants. Theodore Randue, gave 500 l. Dr. Hale 500 l. Richard Topham esq. 100 l. and Lord Chief Justice Reeve 100 l.

In the year 1503, I. Tomson and W. Huntred, chaplains; and I. Combe, gent. founded an alms-house in Sheet street for eight men and women, which in 1510 was endowed by Thomas Brotherton, alias Hunt; the revenue of this alms-house, which has been augmented by Richard Gallis, amounts at present to about 35 l. *per annum*; the pensioners, who are now 12 in number, receive each 10s. *per quarter*. Near the Pit-fields are four other alms-houses, founded and endowed by Richard Reeve, gent. in 1676; the poor in these houses receive 50 shillings *per annum* each.

each. In Park-Street is an alms-house without endowment for twelve poor men, who are supported by the parish.

Archbishop Laud gave 50*l. per annum* to this parish, to be employed two following years in apprenticing poor boys, and every third year in giving marriage portions to poor maidens of the town of Windsor°. Theodore Randue esq. having given the sum of 1000*l.* in augmentation of Archbishop Laud's charity, his executors, by a discretionary power vested in them, added 250*l.* with which joint sum an estate was purchased, out of the rents of which 50*l. per annum* is thus disposed of; ten pounds each, two following years, to five boys, who have been apprenticed by Archbishop Laud's charity, and duly served their apprenticeships; and every third year, the same sum to three maidens, born in Windsor, that have faithfully lived in one service during three whole years.

Mrs. Barbara Jordan, in 1730, gave 1*l. per annum* each to three old maids not receiving alms; Mrs. Arabella Reeve, in 1732, gave the interest of 500*l.* to six poor widows, lame or blind, being natives and inhabitants of New Windsor. There are several other charities belonging to the parish, and the overseers receive 120*l. per annum* from the crown, by royal grant, in lieu of waste lands at various times inclosed in the parks.

A hospital for sick soldiers, capable of accommodating about 40 men, was built at Windsor in the year 1784. There are barracks near the town for 650 infantry, and 220 cavalry, including officers' horses.

WINKFIELD, in the hundred of Ripplemere, lies about six miles to the south-west of Windsor. The manor which had belonged to the abbot and convent of Abingdon, was granted in 1539 to Anthony Ellis and Richard Ward: having undergone various alienations, it was purchased by his present Majesty of the family of Meeke, about the year 1780.

The manor of Foli-john, or Foly-John, in this parish, was, in 1328, the property of Oliver de Bourdeaux, who then procured the king's licence to impark his wood at this place^v. In 1336, this manor was granted in fee to Sir William Trussell, son of Matilda, the wife of Oliver de Bourdeaux, by a former husband^u: either this Sir William, or a son of the same name, surrendered it to King Edward III. in 1365. After remaining many years in the crown, the manor of Foli-john park was granted, in the year 1630^r, to Henry Henne esq. who in 1643 was created a baronet: the title became extinct in the early part of the last century, by the death

° See p. 350. ^v Pat. 2 Edw. III. ^u Pat. 10 Edw. III. ^r The account of Foli-John Park, from the time of this grant, was communicated by James Lambert esq.

of his great grandson, Sir Richard Henne, (or, as he spelt the name, Hene), when this estate devolved to two daughters: Lord Henry Beauclerk soon afterwards became possessed of the whole by purchase: one moiety he bought, in 1744, of Mr. Bennet, who, in 1735, had purchased of Penelope Hene, spinster: the remaining moiety was bought by his lordship, in 1748, of Alice, the other coheirefs, and her husband, James Dewhurst. In 1771, Foly-John park was purchased of the representatives of Lord Henry Beauclerk, by George Phillips Towry esq. who continued in possession till 1800, since which time it has undergone one or two alienations, and is now, by a late purchase, the property of William Blane esq.

The manor of Ascot, in this parish, belonged to the abbot and convent of Abingdon: in 1722, it was purchased of the family of Broughton, who had possessed it more than an hundred years, by Robert Forster esq.: on Mr. Forster's death, it was sold to Andrew Lindegren esq. of whose executors it was purchased in 1787, by the present proprietor, Daniel Agace esq. who resides in the manor house.

The manor of Chauridge in this parish, having formerly belonged, as it is supposed, to the neighbouring priory of Broomhale, is now vested in the master and scholars of St. John's College, in Cambridge, who possess the other estates which belonged to that convent.

In this parish is Cranbourn-Lodge, built by Richard, Earl of Ranelagh, paymaster of the forces, in the reign of King Charles II. after which it was successively in the occupation of Charles, Duke of St. Alban's^{*}; the Duke of Cumberland, his Majesty's uncle^{*}; and of his late brother, the Duke of York: it is now the seat of his Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester: in this parish also is Swinley-Lodge, the occasional residence of the master of the buck hounds.

Fern-Hill, in the parish of Winkfield, was the seat of the brave General Clayton, who lost his life in the glorious battle of Dettingen, in 1743; now of Francis Knollys esq. who took that name on having succeeded in establishing his claim, as heir at law to the estate of Sir Francis Knollys, of Fern-Hill, who died about the year 1770: he was the last male heir of the ancient family of that name, at Reading.

The other principal seats in this parish, are Winkfield-Place, the property of Stanlake Batson esq.; Winkfield-Park, the property of Thomas Bingley esq.; and Lovell-Hill, that of Charles Shard esq. The latter was the seat of Admiral Sir Charles Knowles, when he was created a baronet, in 1765.

^{*} Pote's History of Windsor.

^{*} This lodge, together with the wardenhip of the forest, was granted to the duke, on the Duke of St. Alban's death, in 1751: his royal highness was ranger of the great park, by a former grant, and for several years occupied the ranger's lodge there.

In the parish church is a tablet, with the figure, engraved on brass, of an aged man, distributing bread to the poor, in memory of Thomas Mountagu, yeoman of the guards, who died in 1630, aged 92; and the tomb of Thomas Wife, master-mason of England, 1685.

The dean and chapter of Salisbury are patrons of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Reading, and impropiators of the great tithes, which belonged formerly to the abbot and convent of Abingdon: the vicar has the great tithes of *Bulbrook*, a hamlet of this parish: there is another hamlet, called *Hately*, and many scattered houses about Winkfield-Plain, Winkfield-Row, North-Street, and Hatchet-Lane.

The Earl of Ranelagh, in 1710, built a free school for boys, and another for girls, under the same roof, on Winkfield-Plain, and endowed them with the manor of Killeagh, in Ireland, and other estates. Thomas Maule esq. in 1715, gave 200l. to these schools, which was laid out in lands, in the parish of Winkfield. Mr. Hatch, who had received his education at the school, gave about the year 1780, the sum of 500l. as a grateful acknowledgement for the advantages he had himself received.

WITHAM, or *Wightam*, in the hundred of Horner, lies three miles to the north-west of Oxford: at this place was, in ancient times, a nunnery, founded originally at Abingdon, by the sister of King Ceadwall, and afterwards removed hither: it was deserted by the nuns, during the war between Offa, king of the Mercians, and Kinewulf, king of the West Saxons, in consequence of a castle having been then built at Witham: the nunnery was never afterwards inhabited^u.

The manor of Witham was, at an early period, the property of the Wightams, who took their name from the village: they became extinct in the reign of King Edward IV.: it is not improbable that Alice Denton, who died seized of the manor, in 1480, was the heiress of that family: on her death, Witham was inherited by her relation, Sir Richard Harcourt^x: the manor house, an ancient stone fabrick within a moat, was built by one of this family: the arms of Harcourt, with the

^u See Cotton MSS. Brit. Mus. Claudius, B. VI. fol. 6.

^x Esch. 19 Edw. IV. This Sir Richard must have been the same person of that name, who died in 1487, being the immediate ancestor of the present Earl Harcourt. It is probable, that Witham was inherited by William, his only son by his third wife; for Sir William Harcourt and Francis Harcourt esq. are described, in some Berkshire pedigrees in the British Museum, as of Witham; and the name of William does not, in any other instance, appear in the accounts of this noble family in the peerage.

Garter¹, impaling femeé of crofs crofslets, a lion rampant, holding a rofe, are to be feen upon a ceiling. How this manor became vefted in the crown does not appear; moft probably by exchange: it was granted, in 1539, to Sir John Williams, afterwards Lord Williams, of Thame: Henry, Lord Norris, fon of Sir Henry Norris, who was executed on a flight fufpicion of having been criminally connected with Queen Anne Bullen, became poffeffed of Witham, by marriage with the heirefs of Lord Williams: it is now the property and feat of the Earl of Abingdon, whose ancestor, Montague Bertie, Earl of Lindfey, married the daughter and heir of Edward Wray efq. groom of the bed chamber to King James I. by Elizabeth, his wife, daughter and fole heir of Francis, Lord Norris.

The brafs figures of the Wyghtam family, mentioned by Afhmole, are now placed againft the wall in the parifh church, near one of the windows; the infcriptions are loft: Montagu, Earl of Abingdon, put down a flab, in 1735, with an infcription to the memory of this ancient family, but it is already nearly obliterated: the fame misfortune has happened to a memorial of Mr. Edward Purcell, gentleman ufher to King Charles II. and brother of Henry Purcell, the celebrated mufician: the Earl of Abingdon is patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Abingdon.

Adjoining to this parifh is Seacourt, anciently called Seckworth, Senkworth, and Seke-Court, which fome records fpeak of as belonging to Witham; but it has been long confidered as extra-parochial: it contains five houfes, and had formerly a free chapel, of which there are no remains: the manor of Seacourt, which belonged formerly to the abbot and convent of Abingdon, is now annexed to the manor of Witham, having been granted with it to Sir John Williams, in 1539: an eftate, called alfo the manor of Seacourt, was granted, in the reign of King Edward II. by Sir Walter Le Poore, to Sir William Bereford, for life, with reverfion to the Beaumont family²: Eleanor, Countefs of Arundel, who had been the wife of John, Lord Beaumont, died feifed of it in 1375³.

LITTLE-WITTENHAM, in the hundred of Ock, lies four miles and a half to the north-weft of Wallingford: the manor, which had belonged to the abbot and

¹ It is difficult to account for the order of the Garter, which accompanies thefe arms, nor does the coat which compofes the impalement correfpond with the arms of any family mentioned in the peerage, as marrying with the Harcourts. It is moft probable that Witham-Houfe was built by Sir Richard Harcourt, foon after he became poffeffed of the manor, in 1480; and it is not unlikely that the impalement contains the arms of his laft wife, relict of Sir Miles Stapleton, whose maiden name does not occur in the peerage; but this Sir Richard was not a Knight of the Garter. His elder brother, Sir Robert, who died before the Harcourts came into poffeffion of this manor, was K. G.

² See Efch. 20 Edw. II.

³ Efch. Edw. III.

convent of Abingdon, was given, by King Henry VIII. in 1547, to Thomas, Lord Wriothesley: it is probable, that it became soon afterwards the property of John Barnes, gentleman porter of the castle of Guifnes, in France, who was buried at Little Wittenham, in 1588; for it appears, that his sister and heir married William Dunch esq. auditor of the mint, whose family, for a long series of years, were lords of this manor: from them it passed, by marriage, to the Oxendons: Sir Henry Oxendon bart. sold it, in 1788, to William Hallet esq. of whom it was purchased by Nathaniel Dance esq. now Sir Nathaniel Holland bart. the present proprietor: the ancient manor house, which was the seat of the family of Dunch, has been pulled down.

In the parish church are some memorials for the ancient family of Kidwelly; and in an adjoining chapel, several monuments of the family of Dunch: the most remarkable is that of Sir William Dunch, who represented the borough of Wallingford in parliament, and married the daughter of Sir Henry Cromwell, aunt to the protector, Oliver: it is of marble and alabaster, very costly, with the effigies of Sir William, in armour, and that of his lady. Edmund Dunch, son of Sir William, is said to have been made governor of Wallingford castle by his cousin, the protector: in 1658, he was created a baronet, and afterwards called to the Upper House, by the title of Baron Burnell, of which he was divested at the restoration: he died in 1678. The author of a pamphlet, entitled, the Mysteries of the Good Old Cause, published in 1660, speaking of this gentleman, says, "he was the husband of that fine Mrs. Dunch; was a great favourite with the protector, and had a patent to be lord of the Lord knows what, and how little he deserves it." The family of Dunch became extinct on the death of Edmund Dunch esq. his grandson, in 1719: one of his coheiresses married Sir George Oxendon bart.

The rectory of Little Wittenham is in the deanery of Abingdon: the right of patronage has been of late litigated, and was not determined in 1802.

Sinodun-Hill, surrounded with an ancient entrenchment, is in this parish^b.

LONG, or WEST-WITTENHAM, in the hundred of Ock, lies about five miles to the north-west of Wallingford: it was some times called Earls-Wittenham, probably from the family of Pleffitis, Earls of Warwick, who inherited the manor from the Sandfords^c: in 1336, it was in the Berefords^d; afterwards in the Linneseys^e and Staffords^f: in 1541, Sir John Williams gave the manor of West-Wittenham to the king; it was afterwards granted to Alice Dynham^g: it is probable, that it was

^b See p. 214. ^c Dugdale's Baronage. ^d Esch. Edw. III. ^e Esch. Edw. III. and Ric. II.

^f Esch. Edw. IV.

^g Fee-Farm Rolls in the Augmentation Office.

soon afterwards purchased by Sir Thomas White, the founder of St. John's College, in Oxford, who gave it to the president and scholars of that society.

The rector and scholars of Exeter College are patrons of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Abingdon, and impropriators of the great tithes, which belonged formerly to the priory of Newton-Longueville, in Buckinghamshire.

WOKINGHAM, or OAKINGHAM, in the hundred of Sunning, is a market-town, within the precincts of Windsor forest: the parish is partly in Berkshire, and partly in an insulated part of Wiltshire; the town is almost wholly in the former; the church in the latter: the Wiltshire part extends from the town, north-east, to Bill-Hill, and comprises about a sixth part of the parish, which is divided into the three following districts; the town, which is governed by an alderman and 11 capital burgesses; the Berkshire part, out of the town; and the Wiltshire part, out of the town. Wokingham is a market town by prescription: in 1227, the bishop of Salisbury procured a grant from the crown, that he might hold his market at Wokingham peaceably^h: in 1258, the bishop had a grant of two fairs, at the festivals of St. Barnabas and All Saintsⁱ: the market is on Tuesdays, and is particularly famous for its abundant supply of poultry, which is chiefly purchased by higglers, for the London markets: the above-mentioned fairs, and another ancient fair, on the Thursday before Lent, are still continued, although very inconsiderable: two additional fairs, held on Lady-day and Michaelmas-day, were established about the year 1780; but, being ill attended, the days were changed to April 5th and October 10th, with no better success; and, instead of these new fairs, one fair has of late been advertised to be held on the first Tuesday after New Michaelmas-day, being the market day. The number of inhabitants in the town, in 1801, according to the returns then made to parliament under the Population Act, was 1380; in other parts of the parish, 647.

The Berkshire part of this parish is within the manor of Sunning^k.

The late Sir Thomas Rich, when he sold Sunning to Mr. Palmer, retained the manor of Evendons, in the south-west part of this parish: since his death, it has become the property of Mr. John Roberts.

The manor of Cowcye, in Wokingham, having been parcel of the possessions of the abbot and convent of St. Peter, in Westminster, was granted, after the dissolution, to the family of Fettiplace. This estate is now in moieties, between Thomas Bryan Richards esq. and the representatives of his brother: they inherited it from their mother, who was heiress of Mr. Isaac Justice, of Wokingham.

^h Cl. 11 Hen. III.

ⁱ Cart. 42 Hen. III.

^k See the account of that parish, p. 379.

The manor of Beches, to the north-west of the town, took its name from a branch of the ancient family of De la Beche, who resided there : the heir female of this branch brought the manor of Beches to the Whitlockes : this estate, and another small manor to the north-east of the town, called Mays, (being both within Mr. Palmer's manor of Sunning,) are now divided into eight shares, of which Jeremiah Crutchley esq. and William Lampow esq. have six.

The manor of Ashridge, which extends over most of the Wiltshire part of this parish, belonged anciently to the Lacys, Earls of Lincoln¹ : at a later period it was in the Neville family, from whom it descended to Lord Braybrooke, the present proprietor : adjoining to it is an estate, called the manor of Buckhurst, the property of Mr. Daniel Wheeler, in whose family it has been for a considerable time.—Part of Bagshot-Heath is in this parish.

Thomas Godwin, bishop of Bath and Wells, who was born at Wokingham, lies buried in the chancel of the parish church, where is a monument to his memory, with an epitaph, written by his son, Francis Godwin, bishop of Hereford, the learned author of "*De Præfulibus Angliæ Commentarius*;" which informs us, that he died of an ague, in 1590, at his native town, whither he had removed by the advice of his physicians.

The dean of Salisbury has peculiar jurisdiction in this parish, which is locally situated within the deanry of Reading : the dean is impropriator of the great and small tithes, and patron of the benefice, which is a perpetual curacy.

The register of this parish records the burial of Thomas Buck, in 1682, at the age of 115 ; and Hannah Lake, in 1727, at the age of 104.

The Rose Inn, at Wokingham, is celebrated in the well-known song of Molly Mog, attributed to Gay^m, and printed in Dean Swift's Miscellaneous Poems. This cruel fair, who was daughter of Mr. John Mog, the landlord of that inn, died a spinster, at the age of 67. Mr. Standen, of Arborfield, who died in 1730, is said to have been the enamoured swain to whom the song alludes.

The benefactions to this parish have been numerous and ample : the most remarkable are here noticed. Eight small alms-houses were founded in 1451, by John Westend, clerkⁿ : the lands with which they are endowed, (a part of which was given by Mr. Ralph White,) now let at 16l. *per annum*.

¹ See a grant to the Grey Friars, at Reading, in Cl. Rot. 33 Edw. I.

^m The current tradition of the place is, that Gay, and his poetic friends, having met upon some occasion, to dine at the Rose ; and being detained within doors by the weather, it was proposed, that they should write a song, and that each person present should contribute a verse : the subject proposed was, the Fair Maid of the Inn. It is said, that, by mistake, they wrote in praise of Molly ; but that, in fact, it was intended to apply to her sister Sally, who was the greater beauty : a portrait of Gay still remains at the inn.

ⁿ Printed Account of the Benefactions at Wokingham.

The hospital on Luckley Green was founded pursuant to the will of Henry Lucas esq. who died in 1663, having bequeathed the remainder of his estate, supposed to be about 7000 l. for this purpose: the building was completed in 1665, at the expence of 2320 l.; and lands in Bedfordshire, which then let for 240 l. *per annum*, were purchased for its endowment at the expence of 4810 l. The foundation consists of a chaplain or master, whose salary was originally fixed at 50 l. *per annum*; and as many poor men as could be conveniently provided for: their allowance was formerly 10 l. *per annum*. The poor men are to be nominated by the Drapers' Company, who have the management of the estates, out of the poorest inhabitants of the forest division in Berkshire; and the bailiwick of Surrey, in or near the forest. They are now appointed by rotation out of Wokingham town, Wokingham parish, and 15 other parishes in the forest division of Berks, and 15 parishes in the bailiwick of Surrey. The estates were said to be unequal till of late, to maintain more than 10 or 11 poor brethren: at midsummer 1801, the number was increased to 16, their allowance fixed at 14 l. *per annum*, and the salary of the chaplain, who has apartments in the hospital, augmented to 70 l. *per annum*.

Dr. Charles Palmer, who died in 1713, founded a school for 20 boys, to be qualified for apprentices to mechanic trades. Mrs. Martha Palmer, who died in 1723, founded a school for 12 girls, to be called the maiden school; the children to call each other by the name of sister, and to be taught to read, work, spin, &c.

Archbishop Laud gave a portion of fee-farm rents, which, after deducting the land-tax, amounts to about 40 l. *per annum* to this parish. Every third year it is divided pursuant to the donor's intention, between three poor maidens of the age of eighteen, natives of the town and members of the church of England, who have served the same master or mistress for three years together: the other years it is appropriated to the apprenticing poor boys. George Staverton in 1661, gave the rent of a house now 12 l. 12 s. *per annum*, for the purpose of buying a bull to be baited and killed at Christmas; the meat to be given to the poor; the offal, hide, &c. to be sold, and the money laid out in shoes and stockings for poor children. Mr. Richard Palmer in 1664, gave a small salary to the sexton, (which he afterwards augmented by his will), for ringing the great bell of the church half an hour every morning at four, and every evening at eight, from the 10th of September to the eleventh of March: this salary, being 20 s. *per annum*, is still paid by Charles Fyfe Palmer esq. a descendant of the donor, who resides at Luckley-house.

WEST-WOODHAY, in the hundred of Kentbury-Eagle, lies on the borders of Hampshire, about seven miles to the south-west of Newbury, and about six miles to the south-east of Hungerford. It had anciently a market on Tuesdays, granted in

1318, to one of the barons St. Amand^o, who had then been for some time proprietors of the manor^p. From the St. Amands West-Woodhay passed by marriage to Sir Gerard Braybrooke, one of whose coheiresses married Sir William Beauchamp, afterwards Lord St. Amand. John De la Pole, earl of Lincoln, had a grant of this manor in 1484^q: Sir Francis Cheyne, died seised of it in 1512^r: it continued for some time in his collateral descendants^s, and afterwards became the property of the Darrells. John Darrell esq. of West-Woodhay, was created a baronet in 1622: not long afterwards this estate passed to the family of Rudyerd, of whom it was purchased by the grandfather of the late Sir Robert Sloper, K. B.: it is now the property of his son Robert Orby Sloper esq.

The parish church is a modern brick building, containing nothing remarkable: in the old church was an epitaph in memory of Sir Benjamin Rudyerd, lord of the manor, a poet, and noted parliamentary speaker in the time of the Commonwealth. In 1642, he was one of the leading patriots, and it is recorded to his honor, that thinking the king had then made sufficient concessions, he was urgent in persuading the house to an accommodation, and warned them of the miseries of a civil war. Sir Benjamin Rudyerd died in 1658 aged 86, leaving William Rudyerd esq. his only son and heir: his epitaph is printed in Ashmole's Collections.

Mr. Sloper is patron of the rectory, which is in the deanry of Newbury.

WOLHAMPTON, in the hundred of Theale, lies seven miles east of Newbury: the manor which had belonged to the knights hospitallers, was granted in 1544 to William Wollascot esq.^t, and continued in his family above two centuries: it then passed by marriage to the earl of Fingal, who had a seat there. Wolhampton is now the property and residence of Mrs. Elizabeth Crewe, widow of John Crewe esq. of Boleworth Castle in Cheshire, who purchased the manor of Lord Fingal, about the year 1786.

The parish church was built by Richard de Herclond, rector, who lies buried on the north side of the chancel^u. Mrs. Crewe is patron of the rectory which is in the deanry of Newbury.

WOTTON, in the hundred of Hormer, was formerly a hamlet of Cumner, and had a chapel of ease: it was made a separate parish by Montagu, Earl of Abingdon, in the early part of the last century. The manor of Wotton and Borehill had passed with Cumner, till the late Lord Abingdon sold them to William Walker esq. the present proprietor.

^o Cart. 11 Edw. II.

^p Esch. Edw. I.

^q Pat. 1 Rich. III.

^r Esch. Hen. VIII.

^s Harleian MSS. Berkshire Pedigrees.

^t Records in the Augmentation Office.

^u See p. 208.

YATTENDON, in the hundred of Faircross, lies about eight miles to the north-east of Newbury, and about 11 miles west of Reading: it had anciently a market on Tuesdays, granted in 1258, with a fair at the festival of St. Nicholas, to Peter de Etyndon^a, and confirmed in 1319, to John De la Beche, with another fair at the festival of St. Peter, and St. Paul^x: these fairs and the market have been long discontinued, but there is an annual fair on the 13th of October.

In the reign of King Edward I. the manor of Yattendon was held under the baronial family of Somery, by the Braundestons^y: it was afterwards successively in the families of De la Beche^z, St. Amand^a, and Norris. In 1447, Sir John Norris, master of the great wardrobe to King Henry VI. and ancestor of Lord Norris of Rycot, had a licence to embattle the manor house at Yattendon, and to impark 600 acres of land^b: Sir John Norris married the daughter and heir of Richard Merbrooke of Yattendon^c, who, it is probable, possessed the manor after the St. Amands; Sir William Norris his grandson, who was also of Yattendon, was esquire of the body to King Edward IV. From the family of Norris this manor passed to a younger branch of the Berties, Earls of Lindsey, by the marriage of the hon. Captain Henry Bertie, with Philadelphia daughter and heir of Sir Edward Norris: it was sold in 1784, by Capt. Peregrine Bertie, brother of the late Earl of Abingdon, to Sir John Gallini, whose son John Andrea Gallini esq. is the present proprietor.

The old mansion, built by Sir John Norris in 1447, has been long ago pulled down: Mr. Gallini has a house on the site, in which he resides.

The parish church was built by John Norreys esq. as recorded in an inscription, formerly to be seen in the window, a copy of which is preserved in Ashmole's Collections: it is probable that this John Norreys or Norris is the same person, who having been afterwards knighted, built the manor-house. The only remarkable monument in the church is that of Sir John Norris, who died in 1597, discontented, as Anthony Wood observes, at not having been rewarded according to his worth. Our historians bear testimony to the truth of the encomiums in the following epitaph,

“In memory of Sir John Norreys knight, the second son to Henry, the first Lord Norreys of Ricot, who in the 14th of Elizabeth, being sent ambassador into France, and managing his business with prudence and honour, was by reason thereof, and his father's suffering for her mother's sake, advanced to the dignity of a peer of this realme. This Sir John Norreys, that valiant and expert soldier, so famous in his time for his valour and military knowledge, was first trained up in those

^a Cart. 42 Hen. III.

^x Cart. 12 Edw. II.

^y Esch. Edw. I.

^z Esch. Edw. III. &c.

^a Esch. Rich. II.

^b Cart. 25 and 26 Hen. VI.

^c Berkshire Pedigrees, Brit. Mus.

exercised in the civil wars of France, under Admiral Coligni; next in Ireland, under Walter, Earl of Essex; then served in the Netherlands, under Matthias, Archduke of Austria; after that, under John Duke of Loreyne; next under Count William of Nassau, and in the 27th of Elizabeth, 12th of August, was by the queen constituted colonel-general of all the horse and foot, then to pass out of England for the relief of Antwerp, then besieged by the Spaniards; before the end of which month he had another commission from Count Maurice of Nassau, and the same year was empowered to treat with the States General of the United Provinces, for the entertaining such bands of the English foot, as by the queen's instructions were appointed to serve in those parts. Several commissions he likewise had from Robert, Earl of Leicester; after he was constituted general of the English auxiliaries in those provinces; viz. two in 28 Elizabeth, and one in 29 Elizabeth. In 30 Elizabeth, being then president of the council in the province of Munster in Ireland, he had a commission, bearing date 11th of October, giving him authority to constitute such principal officers, as well by sea as land, as he should think fit for the withstanding all hostile attempts, and for the defence and the protection of that realm. In 33 Elizabeth, he was constituted captain-general of those English auxiliaries which were sent in aid of King Henry the Fourth of France, against his rebellious subjects in Britany; and having deported himself with great prudence and courage in all those eminent employments, to the no little honour of the English nation, as well as his own name, he departed this life at his house in Yatendon, July 3, 1597, and in the 68th year of his age".

" Memoria gratia monumentum
Restauravit Norreys Bertie Armiger."

Mr. Carte, who lies buried in Yattendon church, without any memorial, wrote the greater part of his History of England at this village^d; he afterwards removed to Caldecot-house. The following entry of his burial was inserted in the register, by Dr. Bellas, then rector of Yattendon. "The Rev. Thomas Carte, editor of Thuanus's History of his own times, and author of a life of the great Duke of Ormond, and a general history of England, by which, and other pieces, he approved himself one of the best writers of his time, died at Caldecot near Abingdon, on Tuesday April 2, and was buried at Yattendon, in a vault on the north side of the chancel, the 11th, 1574, by me, George Bellas."

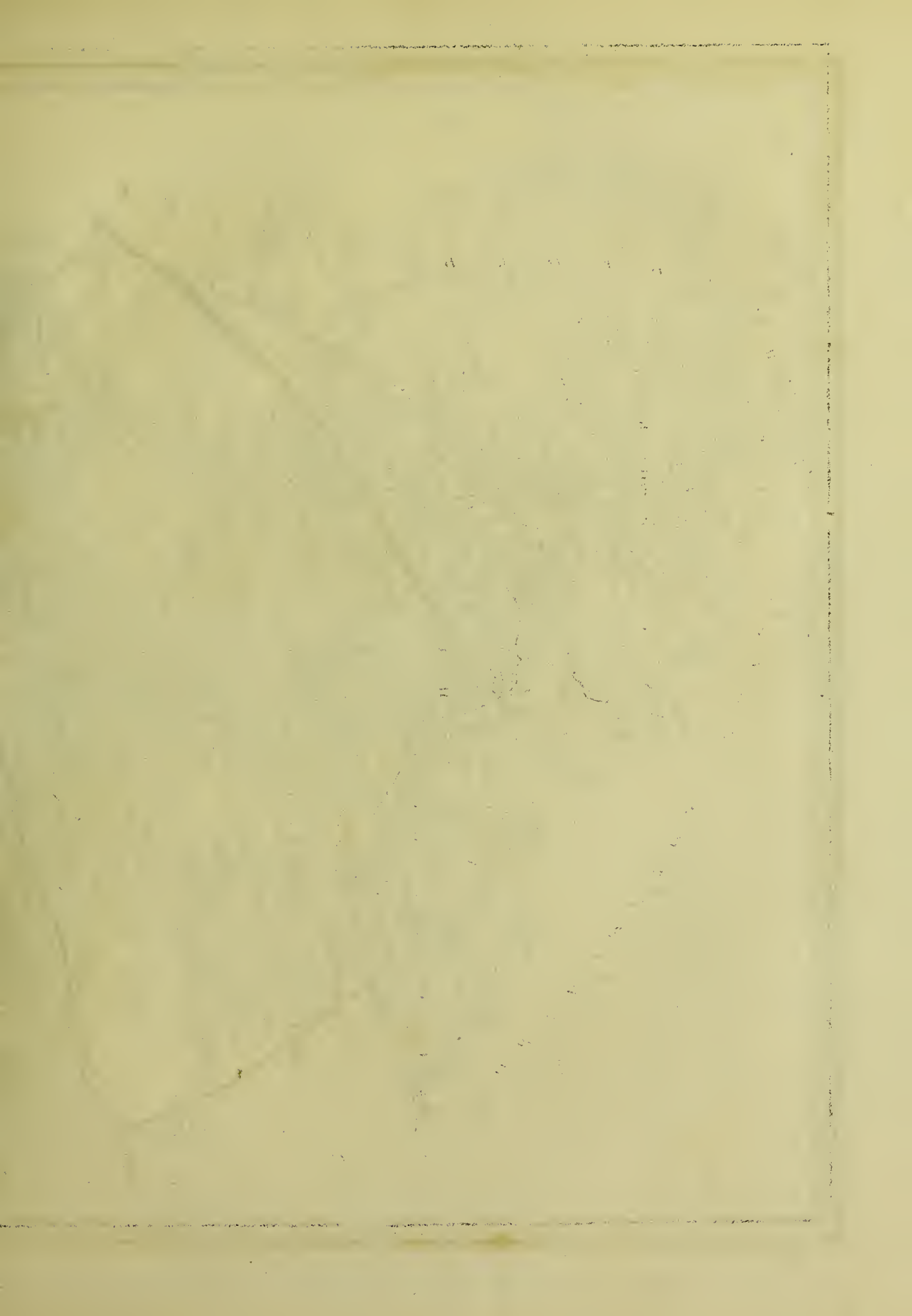
Mr. Hory is patron of the rectory, which is in the deanry of Reading.

The manor of *Everington*, a large hamlet in this parish, was successively in the families of De la Beche, Norris, and Bertie, and is now the property of J. A. Gallini esq.

^d From the information of Dr. Bellas, late vicar of Bafilden.

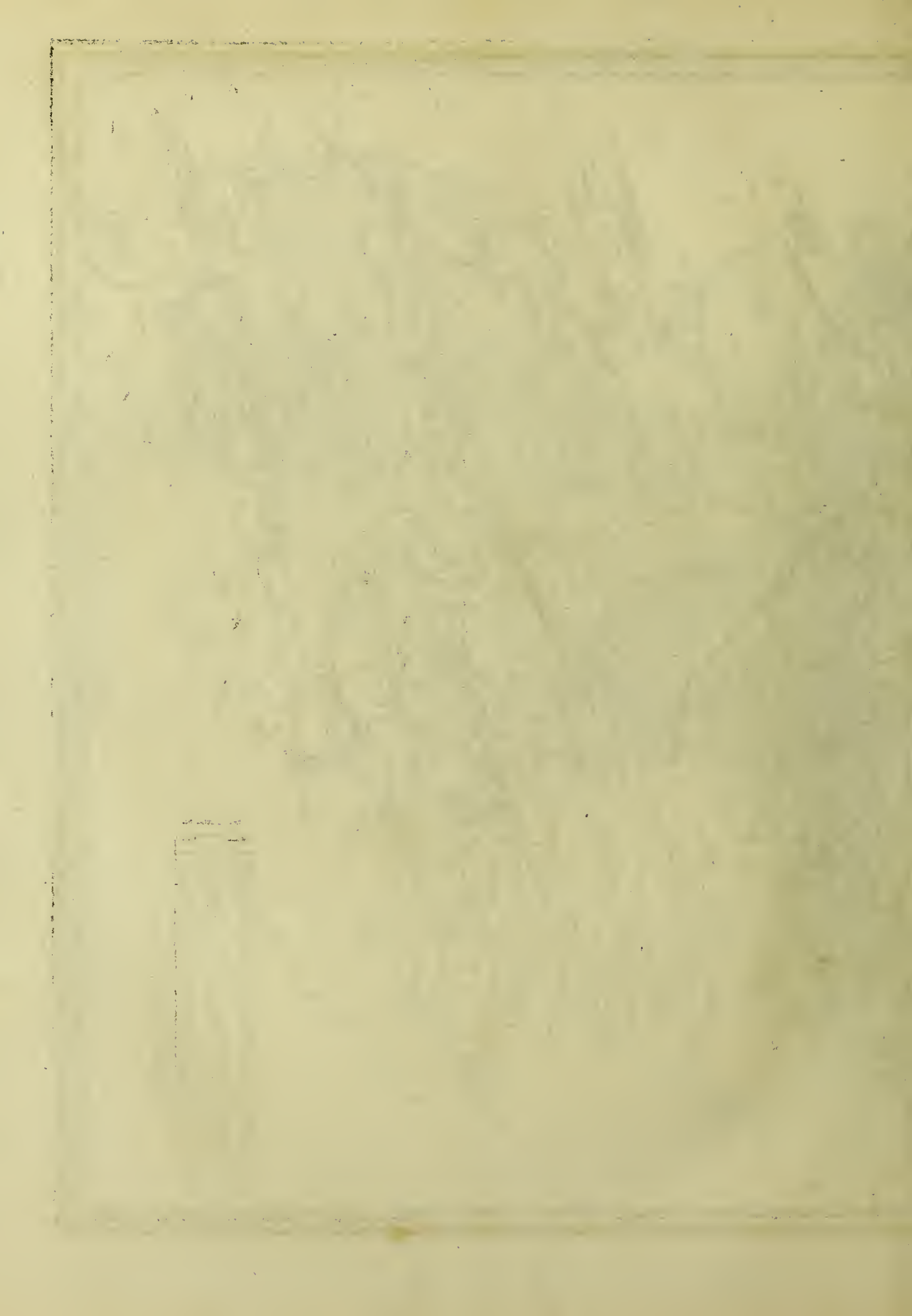
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

RECEIVED









BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

INTRODUCTION.

ETYMOLOGY.

CAMDEN derives the name of this county from *Bucken*, more usually spelt by the Saxons *Boccen* or *Buccen*, Beechtrees: Spelman prefers the derivation of it from the same word *Buccen*, in another acceptation, as signifying bucks or deer. It is evident that, whatever be its etymology, the county derived its name from the town of Buckingham. As far as local circumstances confirm the conjecture of these learned antiquaries, the preference must be given to the latter; for although Beechwoods abound in some parts of Buckinghamshire, yet they are remote from the county town, and the soil of its neighbourhood is not favourable to their growth. A more satisfactory etymology than either seems to have been overlooked: it is well known that charter lands were anciently called by the Saxons *Boch-land*, in contradistinction to copyholds, which were called *Folk-land*: in Domesday-book, and other ancient records, the county town is called *Boch-ing-ham*. Many villages of the name of Buckland occur in various parts of the kingdom, all of which are called in old records *Boch-land*, i. e. literally charter-land: *Boch-ing*, under the same construction, will be a charter-meadow; the meaning of *ham*, is well known to be a mansion or vill^a.

Ancient Inhabitants and Government.

CAMDEN supposes this county to have been inhabited in the time of the Britons, by a people called the *Cattieuchlani*, whom he conjectures to have been the same as the *Cassii*; and that they were the subjects of Cassivellaunus. Mr. Whitaker, from an attentive consideration of the works of Richard of Cirencester, is of opinion, that only that part of Buckinghamshire which borders on Bedfordshire was originally inhabited by the *Cassii*, but that they afterwards seized upon the territories of the

^a The name of Folkingham seems to have been formed in the same manner.

Dobuni, who inhabited the other parts of Buckinghamshire, extending to the western frontier of the *Cassii*: this part of Buckinghamshire he supposes to have been originally possessed by the *Ancalites*, but afterwards conquered by the *Dobuni*^a. When Britain first became a province of Rome, Buckinghamshire formed a part of *Britannia superior*: in the subsequent division of the province, it was included in the district of *Flavia Caesariensis*. During the Saxon Heptarchy, it was under the government of the Kings of Mercia, and after the union of the heptarchy, became comprised within the district called *Dene-lege*, or the Danish district.

Historical Events.

THE early part of the history of this kingdom is involved in so much obscurity, that it is very difficult to ascertain the locality of its events. The neighbourhood of Kimble is supposed to have been the scene of that action with the Romans, in which the two sons of Cunobeline, or Cymbeline, were defeated by Aulus Plautius, and Togodumnus, one of them, slain^b. The conjecture, that the strong post, on the side of the Chiltern hills, called Kimble Castle, was Cymbeline's palace, seems very plausible; the ancient name of Kimble, as it occurs in records, was Kynebel or Cuno-bel: in the Survey of Domesday, it is written, perhaps corruptly, Chenebella. Chersley, in this county, is supposed by some writers to have been the site of a battle, which Cerdic and Cynric fought against the Britons in 527; Bishop Gibson, says that he should rather have fought for it in the kingdom of the West-Saxons, if any place of the name could there be found, since the same commanders obtained a victory over the Britons eight years before, at Cerdicesford, (now Charford,) in Hampshire^c. Mr. Wise supposes the great cross, (called White-leaf Cross,) cut on the side of the chalk hills, near Risborough, to be the memorial of some victory of the Saxons over the Danes; and that the name of the neighbouring village of Bledlow is derived from *Blod-law*, the bloody hill. Ickford, near Thame, is supposed by some antiquaries, to have been the place where the treaty was signed by King Edward and the Danes in 907; but Bishop Gibson is more inclined to fix it in the new forest^d.

The first historical event connected with this county, which rests on better evidence than conjecture, is that of King Edward the Elder building a fortress on each side of the Ouse at Buckingham, where he staid four weeks^e: Bromton places this

^a History of Manchester, vol. I. 8vo. p. 95, 96.

^b Gough's Camden I. 319. Bishop Kennet, in his Parochial Antiquities, says, that from its consequences in the submission of the *Dobuni*, this action must have been somewhere, "in these parts," that is Buckinghamshire, or Oxfordshire. Browne Willis in his History of Buckingham, quoting the Parochial Antiquities very erroneously, says positively that the battle was fought on the banks of the Ouse, at or near Buckingham.

^c Glossary to the Saxon. Chron.

^d Ibid.

^e Decem Scriptores I. 834.

event in 912^f, the Saxon Chronicle in 918. Ralph Higden tells us, that the Danes raised fortresses on both sides of the Ouse, at Buckingham, in 913^g. In 921^h, or as Florence of Worcester says, in 918, the Danes committed great depredations between Aylesbury and the forest of Bernwood. It is said by Bromton in his Chronicle, that Colnbrook was burnt by the Danes in 1006ⁱ: no other author mentions the fact, and it seems evidently to have been a mistake for Cholfey in Berkshire, which was destroyed by the Danes at the same time that they burnt Wallingford and Reading.

Hanslope Castle, which was situated at Castlethorp, where its vestiges still remain, was held against King John in his wars with the barons: it was taken in 1216, by his favourite general, Fawkes de Brent, and demolished^k. In 1233, Richard Sward, with other foreigners, being in rebellion, laid waste the lands of Richard Earl of Cornwall near Brill, and burnt his houses^l.

At the commencement of the civil war, in the 17th century, Buckinghamshire was one of the first counties that joined in an association for mutual defence, on the side of the parliament, who, in the early part of the war, had a garrison on a commanding spot at Brill, on the borders of Oxfordshire. The celebrated Hampden, made an unsuccessful attack on this garrison in 1642^m. Among the terms for a cessation of hostilities, as delivered to the king in March 1643, it was proposed that the royal forces should not advance nearer to Aylesbury than Brill, nor those of the parliament nearer to Oxford than Aylesburyⁿ. In the course of that year, the proposals for accommodation having unhappily failed, Newport-Pagnell was for a short time garrisoned by the king's troops, but was abandoned by Sir Lewis Dyve, on the approach of the Earl of Essex: it afterwards proved a very useful garrison to the parliament^o. Brill was abandoned by the king in the spring of 1643: about the same time Prince Rupert attacked the parliamentary quarters at High-Wycombe, with some success^p. The Earl of Essex quartered his army for a considerable time about Aylesbury and Thame, in the summer of the same year^q. In August there was a grand rendezvous of the parliamentary army near Aylesbury^r. In 1644, the king fixed his head-quarters for some time at Buckingham^s. Borstall-house, a garrison of the king's in this county, on the borders of Oxfordshire, was evacuated in June 1644, and immediately taken possession of by the parliament, who had found it a very troublesome neighbour to their garrison at Aylesbury^t: it was retaken by Col. Gage, after the royalists had for a while repented their want of policy in aban-

^f Decem Scriptores I. 834.
Chron. 107.

ⁱ Decem Script. I. 886.

^g Hist. Ang. Scrip. III. 261.

^h Holinshed.

^k Saxons

^l M. Paris, p. 332.

^m Clarendon 8vo. edit. II. 166.

ⁿ Ibid. II. 163.

^o Ibid. II. 292.

^p Ibid. II. 250.

^q Ibid. II. 292.

^r Ibid. II. 243.

^s Ibid. II. 496.

^t Ibid. II. 493.

doing it. Greenland-house, another garrison of the king's in this county, being situated on the banks of the Thames, near Henley, was surrendered to general Browne in the month of July following, after sustaining a very severe siege^u. During the next year (1645) the Buckinghamshire garrisons on both sides remained as they were; Skippon, and afterwards Fairfax, having attacked Borstall-house without success^x. The parliamentary army marched from thence to Marsh-Gibwen, Brickhill, and Buckingham^y. In 1646, Borstall-house, the only remaining garrison of the king in this county, was surrendered to the parliament^z. In 1649, we find this county petitioning parliament to abolish tithes, manors, &c.^a

Ancient and modern Division of Buckinghamshire.

WHEN the survey of Domesday was taken, this county was divided into eighteen hundreds: there are now only eight, which compose separate districts. The modern hundred of Buckingham includes the ancient hundreds of Rouelai, Stodfald and Lamua. The three ancient hundreds of Bonestou, Sigelai, and Moleflou, are now called Dunstow, Segloe, and Mulso. The late George Wrighte esq. of Gayhurst, was keeper of these hundreds under the crown, but they are not considered as separate districts, being comprised within the general name of Newport hundred. The hundreds of Elefberie, Stanes, and Riseberge, now comprise one district, called the three hundreds of Aylebury. The ancient hundreds of Coteslau, Mureslai, and Erlai, are included in the hundred of Cotflow. The hundreds of Effedene, Votesdone, and Ticheffele are comprised in the modern hundred of Ashendon, excepting that Adstock, formerly in Votesdone, is now in the hundred of Buckingham, and Hoggeston and Crestlow in that of Cotflow. The hundreds of Dustenburgh and Stoches are now called Desborough and Stoke. The hundred of Burnham preserves its ancient name and extent, excepting that Farnham and Eton, which were formerly comprised in it, are now in the hundred of Stoke. Desborough, Stoke, and Burnham are the three Chiltern hundreds, the custody of which is well known to be a nominal office, accepted by any member of parliament who wishes to vacate his seat.

The following is a list of the manors noticed in the Survey of Domesday, with the modern names, as far as they could be ascertained, and the hundreds in which they were anciently situated.

^u Clarendon II. p. 529.

^x Ibid. II. 655. and Heath's Chronicle, p. 76.

^y Heath, p. 7, and

Clarendon II. 655.

^z Heath, p. 111.

^a Paper called the Moderator, Feb. 1649.

Ahecote	-	Edgcot	-	Rouelai.
Achelei ^b	-	Akeley	-	
Achelei	-	Oakley	-	Ticheffele.
Ambretone	-	Emberton	-	Moleslou.
Affedone	-	Ashendon	-	Effedene.
Becentone	-	Bechampton	-	Rouelai.
Begrave	-	Bedgrove, in Weston-Turville	-	Stanes.
Berlau	-	Supposed by Mr. Langley to be Little-Marlow	-	Duftenburgh.
Bertone	-	Barton	-	Rouelai.
Betefeldene	-	Bidlefden	-	Stodfald.
Bichedone	-	Beachington	-	Effeden.
Bledelau	-	Bledlow	-	Rifeberge.
Bocheland	-	Buckland	-	Elefberie.
Bochingheham	-	Buckingham	-	
Bovenia	-	Boveney, in Burnham	-	Burnham.
Bradeham	-	Bradenham	-	Duftenburgh.
Bradewelle	-	Bradwell	-	Sigelai.
Brichelle	-	The Brickhills	-	Moleslou.
Broch	-	Supposed by Mr. Langley to have been in Medmenham	-	Duftenburgh.
Brotone	-	Broughton	-	Moleslou.
Brunhelle	-	Brill	-	Effedene.
Burnham	-	Burnham	-	Burnham.
Burtone	-	Boretton, in Buckingham	-	Rouelai.
Caldecote	-	Caldecot, in Newport-Pagnell	-	Sigelai.
Calvretone	-	Calverton	-	Sigelai.
Cavrefelle	-	Caversfield	-	Rouelai.
Celdestane	-	Shallefton	-	Stodfald.
Celfunde	-	The Chalfonts	-	Burnham.
Cerfelai	-	Chersley	-	Effedene.
Cestreham	-	The Cheshams	-	Burnham.
Cetendone	-	Cheddington	-	Erlai.
Ceteode	-	Chetwode	-	Rouelai.
Chavescote	-	Gawcot, in Buckingham	-	
Chenebella	-	The Kimbles	-	Stanes.
Chentone	-	Quainton	-	Effedene.
Cicelai	-	Chichley	-	Moleslou.
Ciltone	-	Chilton	-	Ticheffele.
Chaindone	-	The Claydons	-	Votefdone and Lamua.
Clyftone	-	Clifton-Reynes	-	Moleslou.

^b In folio 147, *b.* of the Survey, this manor, and those of Lanport, Lelinchestane, and Mortone, which were certainly all in the hundred of Stodfald, appear as if in the hundred of Mureslei, from the neglect of the transcriber, in not having inserted the words, "In Stodfald hund," before the manor of Lanport, which occurs the first of the four.

Coblingcote	-	Cublington	-	Coteflou.
Craulai	-	North-Crawley	-	Moleftou.
Credendone	-	Crendon	-	Ticheffele.
Creffelai	-	Crefflow	-	Votefdone.
Crouftone	-	Crofton in Wing	-	Coteflau.
Daceta	-	Datchet	-	Stoches.
Daneham	-	Denham	-	Stoches.
Danitone	-	Dinton	-	Stanes.
Dileherft	-	Supposed by Mr. Langley to be Fingest	-	Duftenburgh.
Ditone	-	Ditton, ia Stoke Poges	-	Stoches.
Dodeford	-	Dodford, in Stow	-	Stodfald.
Dodintone	-	Dunton	-	Coteflau.
Dornei	-	Dorney	-	Burneham.
Dortone	-	Dourton	-	Ticheffele.
Draitone	-	The Draytons	-	Murefleli.
Eddinberge	-	Edlesborough	-	Erlai.
Edeftocha	-	Adftock	-	Votefdone.
Edintone	-	Addington	-	Lamua.
Eie	-	Kingfey	-	Ticheffele.
Eilefberie	-	Aylefbury	-	Elefberie.
Elmodesham	-	Agmondesham, or Amerfham	-	Burneham.
Efenberge	-	Ellesborough	-	Elefberie.
Eftone	-	The Alfons	-	Elefberie and Erlai.
Etone	-	Water-Eaton, in Bletchley	-	Sigelai.
Ettone	-	Eton	-	Burneham.
Eurefel	-	Everfaw, in Bidlefdon	-	Stodfald.
Evinghehou	-	Ivinghoe	-	Erlai.
Evreham	-	Iver	-	Stoches.
Falelie	-	Fawley	-	Duftenburgh.
Fernham	-	Farnham-Royal	-	Stoches.
Foxefcote	-	Foxcote	-	Stodfald.
Gatehurft	-	Gayhurft, or Gothurft	-	Boneftou.
Grenesburga	-	Granborough	-	Votefdone.
Grennedone	-	Grendon	-	Elfedene.
Hadenham	-	Haddenham	-	Elefberie.
Haltone	-	Halton	-	Stanes.
Hambledene	-	Hambleden	-	Duftenburgh.
Hamefele	-	Hanflape	-	Boneftou.
Hanechdene*	-		-	Duftenburgh.
Hardwiche	-	Hardwick	-	Coteflau.
Hafelie	-		-	Rouelai.
Havrefham	-	Haverfham	-	Boneftou.

* Qu. West-Wycombe, which was anciently called Haneringdon?

Helpstorp	-	Helpsthorp, or Elstrop, in Dray-	-	Mureslai.
		ton-Beauchamp	-	
Herdewelle	-	Hartwell	-	Stanes.
Herouldmede, Herulfmede, or	}	Hardmead	-	Moleslou.
Horelmede	-			
Hereworde	-	The Harwoods	-	Mureslei.
Hefintone	-	Eafington, in Chilton	-	Ticheffele.
Hibestanes	-	Ipston, partly in Oxfordshire	-	Duftenburgh.
Hochestone	-	Hoggeston	-	Votefdone.
Hocfaga	-	Hogshaw	-	Votefdone.
Holdene	-			Coteflau.
Holendone	-	Hollington, in Soulbury	-	Coteflau.
Horfedene	-	Horsendon	-	Rifeberge.
Hortone	-	Horton, in Edlesborough	-	Erlai.
Hortune	-	Horton	-	Stoches.
Hucham	-	Hitcham	-	Burneham.
Huchadene	-	Hitchenden	-	Duftenburgh.
Iford	-	Ickford	-	Ticheffele.
Ilesdon, or Ulesdon	-	Hillefdon	-	Rouelai.
Imer	-	Ilmer	-	Ticheffele.
Lanport ^d	-	Langport, in Stow		
Langrave	-			Coteflau.
Lateberie, or Latefburie	-	Lathbury	-	Bonestou.
Lavvendene	-	Lavendon	-	Bonestou.
Lechampstede	-	Lekhampsted	-	Stodfald.
Lede	-	Lude, in Wooburn	-	Duftenburgh.
Ledinberge	-	Lethenborough, in Buckingham		Rouelai.
Lelinchestane ^e	-	Lillingston-Dayrell		
Lefa	-			Ticheffele.
Lincelada	-	Linchlade	-	Coteflau.
Lineford	-	The Linfords	-	Bonestou and Sigelai.
Litecote	-	Littlecot, or Litcot, in Stewkley		Mureslei.
Lochintone	-	Loughton	-	Sigelai.
Lotegarfer	-	Ludgershall	-	Essedene.
Medemeham	-	Medmenham	-	Duftenburgh.
Mentemore	-	Mentmore	-	Coteflau.
Merlau	-	Marlow	-	Duftenburgh.
Merfa	-	Marsh-Gibwen	-	Lamua.
Merstone	-	Fleet and North-Marston	-	Votefdone.
Mideltone	-	Milton-Keynes	-	Moleslou.
Missedene	-	The Missendens	-	Stanes.
Misseworde	-	Marsworth	-	Erlai.
Moleslou, or Moleshou	-	Mulso	-	Moleslou.
Moretone ^f	-	Maid's-Morton	-	

^d ^e ^f See Note ^b.

Mureslai, Mufelai, or Murfalai	Muresley	-	-	Mureslei.
Nedreham	-	-	-	Stanes.
Neuport	-	Newport-Pagnell	-	Sigelai.
Neutone ^a	-	-	-	Rouelai.
Olnei	-	Olney	-	Boneftou.
Oltone	-	Qu. Wotton	-	Effedene.
Olvonge	-	Oving	-	Effedene.
Optone	-	Upton	-	Burneham.
Pateberie	-	Padbury	-	Lamua.
Pinceletorne	-	Fightelfthorn, or Pitston	-	Erlai.
Policote	-	Policote, in Ashenden	-	Effedene.
Prestone	-	Preston-Biffet	-	Rouelai.
Querendone	-	Quarendon	-	Votefdone.
Radeclive ^b	-	Radcliffe	-	-
Raveneston	-	Ravenston	-	Boneftou.
Rifeberge	-	The Risboroughs	-	Rifeberge.
Santefdone	-	Sanderton	-	Duftenburgh.
Sceldene	-	Salden, in Muresley	-	Mureslai.
Senelai	-	Shenley	-	Sigelai.
Sernitone	-	Sherrington	-	Moleftou.
Sevineftone	-	Simpfon	-	Sigelai.
Sibdone	-	Shipton-Lee, in Quainton	-	Effedene.
Sinleberia	-	Singleborough, in Great-Harwood	-	Mureslei.
Slaptone	-	Slapton	-	Erlai.
Sobintone	-	Shabbington	-	Ticheffele.
Soleberie	-	Soulbury	-	Coteflau.
Sortelai	-	-	-	Effedene.
Stanes	-	Stone	-	Stanes.
Stanton	-	Stanton-Barry	-	Sigelai.
Stivelai	-	Stewkley	-	Mureslei.
Stoches	-	The Stokes	-	Stoches, Boneftou, and Elefberie.
Stow	-	Stow	-	Stodfald.
Stradford	-	Water-Stratford	-	Stodfald.
Sudcote	-	-	-	Stanes.
Sueneberne	-	Swanbourn	-	Mureslei.
Tedingwiche	-	Tingewick	-	Stodfald.
Tedlingham, or Telingham	-	Tyringham	-	Boneftou and Sigelai.
Ternitone	-	Thornton	-	Rouelai.
Thapeflau	-	Taplow	-	Burneham.
Ticheford	-	Tickford, in Newport-Pagnell	-	Sigelai.

^a This manor, which seems to have been erroneously inserted in the Survey as in Rouelai hundred, must be either Newton-Longueville, or Newton-Blossomville.

^b In the hundred of Stodfald, but erroneously entered in the Survey, as in Mureslei, (fol. 152. b.) through neglect of inserting the name of the hundred before Dodeford.

Tilleberie ⁱ	-	-	Duftenburgh.
Tochingewiche	-	Tetchwick, in Ludgershall	- Effedene.
Torneberge	-	Thornborough	- Lamua.
Tuvestone	-	Turweston	- Stodfald.
Tveverde	-	Twyford	- Lamua.
Ulchetone	-	Woughton	- Sigelai.
Ulfietone	-	The Woolftons	- Sigelai.
Upetone	-	Upton, in Dinton	- Stanes.
Votefdone	-	Waddefdon	- Votefdone.
Waborne	-	Woobourn	- Duftenburgh.
Wadone	-	Whaddon	- Mureslei.
Wadruge, or Waldruge	-	Waldridge, in Dinton	-
Wandoure	-	Wendover	- Elefburie.
Wavendone	-	Wavendon	- Moleflou.
Weneflai	-	Winflow	- Mureslei.
Wermelle	-	Wormenhall	- Ticheffele.
Westberie	-	Westbury	- Stodfald.
Westone	-	The Westons	- Boneftou and Stanes.
Wichendon	-	The Winchendons	- Effedene.
Wicherche	-	Whitchurch	- Cotefflau.
Wicumbe	-	Wycombe	- Duftenburgh.
Wirecefberie	-	Wyrardifbury	- Stoches.
Witehunge	-	Wing	- Cotefflau.
Withungrave	-	Wingrave	- Cotefflau.
Wlverintone	-	Wolverton	- Sigelai.

The parishes of Aftwood, Beaconsfield, Bierton, Bletchley, Borftall, Brayfield, Caſtlethorp, Cholfbury, Cuddington, Filgrave, Fingef, Fulmere, Grove, Great and Little-Hampden, Hawridge, Hedgerley, Hedfor, Hulcot, Ifelhamſted, Langley, Lee, Okeney, Penn, Petfoe, Pitchcote, Radnage, Tottenhoe, Turville, Walton, Wexham, Wyllien, and a great number of hamlets and manors, are not mentioned in the Survey.

Eccleſiaſtical Diviſion.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE lies within the dioceſe of Lincoln, and is ſubject to an archdeacon, who takes his title from the county. It is divided into ſeven deaneries, Buckingham, Burnham, Muresley, Newport, Waddefdon, Wendover, and Wycombe. Four parishes (Halton, Monks-Riſborough, Wotton-Underwood, and Little-Brickhill) are in the peculiar juřiſdiction of the archbiſhop of Canterbury; four others (Aſton-Abbots, Granborough, Little-Harwood, and Winflow) are

ⁱ Browne Willis ſuppoſes it to be Ravenſmere manor, in Hitchenden.

in the diocese of London, and in the jurisdiction of the archdeacon of St. Alban's, to the monastery of which place they formerly belonged. The number of parishes in this county, according to Camden, who quotes cardinal Wolsey's list, was in his time 185. The present number, as nearly as they can be ascertained, is 201, including eight which have parochial chapels dependant on other churches, and two others, (Crestlow and Hogshaw,) whose churches were pulled down by Cornelius Holland, one of King Charles's judges, and have never been rebuilt. Nine of the present parish churches were formerly chapels of ease. Ekely, Filgrave, Okeney, and Petfoe, which were formerly separate parishes, have ceased to be considered as such, and have been united to others, their churches having gone to decay.

The donatives of Brill and Borstall are united, as are those of Dourton and Ashendon, and those of Barton and Chetwode; Gothurst was consolidated with Stoke-Goldington in 1736. The curacies of St. Giles and St. Mary Magdalen, in Stony-Stratford, were consolidated after the church of St. Mary Magdalen had been burnt down in 1742; Great-Hampden and Great-Kimble were consolidated in 1799.

Of the parishes in this county, 79 are vicarages, and 29 curacies, or donatives. The great tithes of 92 of these parishes are in lay hands, and most of the remainder are held by lay lessees.

The chapels of ease, exclusively of those already mentioned, as being parochial, are only six in number. There were formerly chapels at Addingrave, Aston in Ivinghoe, Bragenham, Dagnall, Easington, Everfaw, Eythorp, Ford, Gawcot, Hollowick in Medmenham, Hundridge, Litcote, Loughton-Parva, Owlswick, and Rowfham.

Monasteries and Hospitals.

THE Benedictine monks had priories at Snellshall and Bradwell; there was an alien priory of the same order at Ascot in Wing. The Benedictine nuns had priories at Ankerwyke, in Wyrardisbury, at Little-Marlow, and at Muresley, or St. Margaret's, in the parish of Ivinghoe. There were alien priories of Cluniac monks at Tykeford or Tickford, near Newport-Pagnell, and at Newton Longueville: the Cistercian monks had abbeys at Bidlesden and Medmenham: the Austin canons had abbeys at Missenden and Nutley, and priories at Chetwode and Ravenston: the Austin nuns had a priory at Burnham: the Premonstratensian canons had an abbey at Lavenden. The society of Bon-hommes had a college at Asheridge, in the parish of Pitston, on the borders of Hertfordshire, being the only house of the order in England, excepting that at Edindon, in Wiltshire. The Grey Friars had a house at Aylesbury; the Knights Hospitallers a preceptory at Hogshaw. It is not known to what order the ancient monasteries at North-Crawley, and at Gore,

in the parish of Hanflape, belonged; they were destroyed at a very early period. At Ludgershall was an ancient alien hospital subordinate to that of Santingfield in Normandy: an ancient hospital at Buckingham, two at Aylesbury, two at High-Wycombe, and one at Stony-Stratford, have all been long ago destroyed. There were three ancient hospitals at Newport-Pagnell, two of which were destroyed at an early period; the other having also been decayed, was re-founded by Queen Anne, consort of King James I. and is still existing. The royal college of Eton, founded by King Henry VI. retains its ancient flourishing state.

Market and Borough Towns.

THIS county has no city: it sends 14 members to parliament; two for the county; two for the county-town; and two for each of the boroughs of Aylesbury, Amer-sham, Great-Marlow, Wendover, and Chipping-Wycombe. Amer-sham, Marlow, and Wendover, recovered the right of sending members to parliament, which had been refused for more than 400 years, by a petition to the House of Commons in the reign of James the First.

The summer assizes for this county are held at Buckingham, the Lent assizes at Aylesbury. In the reign of Henry VIII. they were held wholly at Aylesbury, through the interest of Chief Justice Baldwin, who resided near that town, previously to which it seems that they were held (at least alternately) at the county town; for, in the inscription over the door of the goal, Lord Cobham is said to have restored the assizes to Buckingham. It appears, nevertheless, that in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and in the early part of the 17th century, the assizes were not held at either place, but at Little-Brickhill^k, which in Saxton's map, published during that period, is called the Assize town. The assizes were held at High-Wycombe, eleven times between 1683 and 1712. The quarter sessions are always held at Aylesbury.

The market-towns in this county are 14 in number: Agmondesham or Amer-sham, Aylesbury, Beaconsfield, Buckingham, Chesham, Ivinghoe, Great-Marlow, Newport-Pagnell, Olney, Princes-Risborough, Stony-Stratford, Wendover, Winslow, and High or Chipping-Wycombe. Colnbrook and Fenny-Stratford are generally enumerated among the market-towns of this county, their markets, however, which were held by charter, have been for several years refused: there was lately an intention of reviving that at Fenny-Stratford, but it did not take place. The markets at Beaconsfield, Ivinghoe, and Risborough, are so far decayed, that they retain little more than the name. The principal markets in the county are those of Buckingham, Aylesbury, and Wycombe: Aylesbury is the most dis-

^k See the account of that parish in the Parochial Topography:

tinguished, both for its market and fairs, which are fix in number; Marlow fair is much celebrated for its show of horses.

The following places had charters for markets, which have been long ago disused: Bidlesden, Little Brickhill, Burnham, Crendon, Haddenham, Hambleton, Hanslope, Great-Harwood, Hoggeston, Iver, Lavenden, Linchlade, Murefley, Tingewick, Snelfhall in the parish of Whaddon, Whitchurch, and Wormenhall. The market at Haddenham, which was granted in 1294, was discontinued in 1301, in consequence of a law-suit commenced by the bishop of Lincoln, who found that it was detrimental to his market at the neighbouring town of Thame, in Oxfordshire.

Population.

In the year 1377, the number of persons in this county charged to a poll-tax, from which the clergy, children, and paupers, were exempted, was 24,672. It appears by the returns made under the act of parliament, for ascertaining the population of this kingdom in 1801, that there were 20,443 inhabited houses, and 543 uninhabited houses in Buckinghamshire: the total number of inhabitants is stated to be 107,444, of whom 52,094 were males, and 55,350 females. Of this total number there were 25,083 employed in agriculture, and 20,138 in trade, manufactures or handicrafts.

The following account of the number of houses, families, and persons in each parish, is taken from the above-mentioned return, and arranged alphabetically.

	Inhabited Houses.	Uninhabited Houses.	Families.	Inhabitants.
Addington	10	0	15	93
Addstock	56	1	61	289
Akeley	41	1	50	245
Amerham	397	7	442	2130
Ashendon	48	1	48	248
Aston-Abbots	55	0	60	276
Aston-Clinton	122	2	130	584
—St. Leonard's in Aston-Clinton	22	0	24	137
Aston-Sandford	13	1	15	71
Astwood	32	0	32	160
Aylesbury	675	22	668	3082
Barton-Hartshorne	17	0	19	100
Beaconsfield	240	11	302	1149
Bechampton	43	2	43	187
Bierton	110	2	113	518
Bletchley				

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	Inhabited Houses.	Uninhabited Houses.	Families.	Inhabitants.
Bletchley	64	2	77	355
— Water-Eaton in Bletchley	41	0	41	214
Bledlow	110	2	113	566
— Ridge in Bledlow	57	0	59	351
Borftall	34	1	40	179
Bradenham	33	0	34	170
Bradwell	52	0	76	255
Brayfield	20	1	23	82
Bow-Brickhill	97	0	94	431
Great-Brickhill	128	1	128	560
Little-Brickhill	80	4	94	385
Brill	190	3	202	859
Broughton	32	0	36	157
Buckingham and its hamlets	531	14	617	2605
Buckland	39	0	71	288
Burnham	258	17	327	1354
— Boveney in Burnham	28	1	33	165
Calverton	64	0	72	321
Castlethorp	56	0	65	260
Caversfield	15	0	15	94
Chalfont-St. Giles	143	11	152	762
Chalfont-St. Peter	192	5	220	1174
Cheddington	48	4	63	273
Cherley	46	1	50	214
Chesham town	370	9	379	1910
— Ashley Green, and Billington	101	7	115	559
— Ashridge, Chartridge, and Hundridge	116	12	123	626
— Botley Green, Latimers and Water-side	184	4	198	874
Chesham-Bois	23	1	29	135
Chetwode	20	0	27	123
Cheyries	88	0	105	423
Chichley	39	1	39	189
Chilton	63	2	63	316
Cholebury	22	2	25	122
East-Claydon	45	0	61	238
Middle-Claydon	24	0	24	93
Steeple-Claydon	104	0	147	646
Clifton-Reynes	45	2	50	221
North-Crawley	75	2	129	617
Crendon	205	4	241	991
Crestlow	1	0	1	6
Cublington	59	1	59	271
Cuddington	84	1	87	435
Datchet	102	5	120	357

Denham

	Inhabited Houses.	Uninhabited Houses.	Families.	Inhabitants.
Denham	150	6	164	796
Dinton	112	0	128	668
Dorney	37	5	41	190
Dourton	21	2	23	105
Drayton-Beauchamp	36	4	49	191
Drayton-Passelew	49	0	69	307
Dunton	18	0	18	85
Edgcot	29	0	30	122
Edlesborough	64	3	75	318
— Dagnall	66	0	71	348
— Horton	9	0	13	44
— Northall	66	3	77	331
Elleborough	90	1	91	480
Emberton	111	5	131	549
Eton	290	8	335	2026
Farnham-Royal	112	8	112	550
— Hedgerly-Dean	28	2	29	77
— Sear-Green	31	1	49	224
Fawley	35	0	35	181
Fingest	57	3	82	316
Foxcote	17	0	17	85
Fulmere	54	1	55	292
Gothurst or Gayhurst	11	0	15	89
Granborough	44	2	52	230
Grendon-Underwood	47	1	60	285
Grove	3	1	3	25
Haddenham	180	2	209	964
Halton	31	0	38	159
Hambleton	201	4	212	1074
Great-Hampden	33	1	40	228
Little-Hampden	16	0	16	79
Hanslope	243	3	291	1289
Hardmead	9	0	9	45
Hardwick	39	1	46	178
— Weedon in Hardwick	59	2	86	385
Hartwell	20	2	22	115
Great-Harwood	91	4	91	450
— Singleborough, in Great-Harwood	18	0	24	87
Little-Harwood	77	3	77	339
Haverham	43	1	53	223
Hawridge	21	0	24	121
Hedgerley	23	3	23	137
Hedfor	30	0	35	140
Hillesdon	26	1	34	183
				Hitcham

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

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	Inhabited Houses.	Uninhabited Houses.	Families.	Inhabitants.
Hitcham	30	0	32	200
Hitchenden	129	4	182	887
Hoggefton	37	0	37	197
Hogshaw cum Fulbrook	7	0	7	55
Horsendon	9	0	9	52
Horton	125	5	185	647
Hulcot	23	1	27	117
Ickford	45	2	68	186
Ilmer	13	2	13	74
Ipfone, (Buckinghamshire, part of)	48	1	58	258
Iver	223	10	273	1377
Ivinghoe	78	0	92	452
— Afton	39	2	50	233
— St. Margaret's	60	0	72	424
— Seabrook	10	0	13	62
Great-Kimble	42	0	56	316
Little-Kimble	32	0	32	142
Kingfey	21	0	36	165
Langley-Marys	226	15	426	1215
Lathbury	25	0	31	189
Lavenden	212	1	212	544
Lee	30	2	34	150
Lekhamsted	60	0	76	346
Lillingston-Dayrell	22	1	22	111
Linchlade	35	1	37	203
Great Linford	51	0	55	313
Little Linford	8	2	8	44
Loughton	58	1	63	302
Ludgershall	59	0	90	359
— Kingwood, in Ludgershall	9	0	21	37
Luffield, extraparochial	3	0	3	16
Great-Marlow	617	26	652	3236
Little-Marlow	124	4	135	728
Marsh-Gibwen	105	0	123	534
North-Marlton	77	0	96	478
Marfworth	40	1	47	259
Medmenham	58	3	69	284
Mentmore	23	0	26	148
— Ledbourn, in Mentmore	19	2	27	131
Milton Keynes	57	0	57	280
Great-Miffenden	259	4	303	1411
Little-Miffenden	132	5	140	625
Maid's-Morton	61	0	73	239
Mulfo	62	1	64	282
Murefley	65	3	77	318
Newton-Blossomville	41	2	49	221

Newton-

	Inhabited Houses.	Uninhabited Houses.	Families.	Inhabitants.
Newton-Longueville	90	0	95	459
Newport-Pagnell	527	14	502	2048
Oakley	34	0	65	257
Olney	444	11	460	2003
—Warrington, in Olney	14	0	14	72
Oving	57	0	65	305
Padbury	84	2	104	459
Penn	133	10	188	927
Pitchcote	4	0	10	51
Pitston, or Pightlethorne	60	2	63	275
—Nettleden and Friesden, in Pitston	16	1	15	85
Preston-Biffet	73	1	77	322
Quainton	147	2	164	750
—Shipton-Lee, in Quainton	15	0	15	120
Quarendon	0	0	0	55
Radnage	58	3	79	306
Radcliffe	47	1	47	252
Ravenston	73	0	81	381
Monk's-Risborough	167	1	167	768
Prince's-Risborough	317	3	317	1554
Sanderton	25	0	25	193
Shabbington	33	1	40	184
Shalleston	32	0	35	158
Shenley	31	1	48	166
—Shenley-Brook-End, in ditto	32	1	46	232
Sherrington	127	2	151	671
Simpson	73	2	74	367
Slapton	40	2	47	228
Soulbury	101	2	107	526
Stanton-Barry	6	0	7	39
Stewkley	118	1	148	680
Stoke-Goldington	132	1	147	636
Stoke-Hamond	44	0	55	268
Stoke-Mandeville	74	6	78	248
Stoke-Poges	138	4	138	288
Stone	103	4	113	515
Stow	58	0	63	311
Stony-Stratford, East Side	104	2	104	528
—, West Side	190	3	216	1125
Fenny-Stratford, in Bletchley and Simpson	81	1	96	469
Water-Stratford	23	0	23	143
Studley (Buckinghamshire, part of)	15	0	19	90
Swanbourn	80	0	115	529
Taplow	80	3	80	422
Thornborough	84	3	115	458

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

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	Inhabited Houfes.	Uninhabited Houfes.	Families.	Inhabitants.
Thornton	14	1	14	85
Tingewick	133	2	139	642
Tottenham	4	0	4	31
Towersey, a Hamlet of Thame	51	0	69	294
Turville	72	2	72	376
Turweston	39	1	39	211
Twyford	51	2	52	296
—— Charndon, in Twyford	29	0	36	146
—— Poundon, in ditto	16	1	16	75
Tyringham, cum Filgrave	24	0	32	236
Upton, cum Chalvey	165	15	205	1018
Waddeston	132	1	205	1040
—— Westcote, in Waddeston	35	1	49	231
—— Woodham, in ditto	4	1	5	21
Walton	12	2	12	79
Wavendon	133	0	138	635
Wendover	264	11	336	1397
Westbury	55	5	54	308
Weston-Turville	72	2	109	497
Weston-Underwood	70	0	97	357
Wexham	33	0	28	172
Whaddon	105	5	123	545
—— Nash, in Whaddon	58	0	64	265
Whitchurch	97	2	150	646
Upper Winchendon	36	0	40	206
Nether Winchendon	35	0	50	244
Wing	201	2	227	993
Wingrave	119	4	228	602
Winslow	219	1	225	1101
Wooburn	293	11	338	1401
Wolverton	46	0	67	238
—— Bradwell Abbey, in Wolverton	2	0	3	12
Great Woolston	21	0	27	113
Little Woolston	20	0	25	103
Wormenhall	36	0	61	266
Wotton-Underwood	29	0	43	212
Woughton	53	1	58	311
High-Wycombe Town	448	10	565	2349
—— Remainder of the Parish	370	8	397	1899
West-Wycombe	257	3	269	1330
Wyllien	15	0	15	97
Wyrardisbury	96	2	103	616

The parish of Fleet-Marston, of which no returns were made under the act, contains only four houfes, and 22 inhabitants.

Crown Lands and Royal Palaces.

AT the time of the Norman Survey, there were only eight Buckinghamshire manors in the crown; yet it appears there were at that time two royal palaces in this county. At Brill, (which is mentioned in the Survey as a crown manor, by the name of Brunhulle,) was a palace, which is said to have belonged to the Mercian kings; tradition assigns the same origin to Cippenham in Burnham. It is certain that they were both the occasional residence of our monarchs of the Norman line, so late as the reign of Henry III. Cheynies, anciently called Iselhamptsted and Isenhampsted, was a royal palace, in the reign of King Edward I.* Risborough, mentioned in the Norman Survey as one of the crown manors, is said to have been the palace of the Black Prince: the vestiges of a castle are clearly to be seen in a field adjoining the church. Asheridge was for a while, after the dissolution of monasteries, a royal palace, and was occasionally inhabited by Queen Elizabeth.

Principal Land-owners in the County at various Periods.

WHEN the survey of Domesday was taken, the following were the principal land-owners: Walter Giffard, Earl of Buckingham, had 41 manors; the Bishop of Baieux, 26; the Bishop of Constance, 18; William Fitz-Ansculf, ancestor of the Paganells and Somerys, 16; Earl Morton, 13; Milo Crispin, 12; Maigno Brito, founder of the barony of Wolverton, 10; William Peverell, 8; Geoffrey de Mandeville, 7; Robert D'Oyley and Roger de Iveri, each six manors; Hugh de Bolebec, and Judith, Countess of Northumberland, each five manors; Lewis Neweton, and Walter Fitz-Other, ancestor of the Windsors, each four manors; Hugh, Earl of Chester, Robert de Toden, Gozelin Brito, and Gilo, the brother of Ansculf, each three manors: no other person appears to have possessed more than two. The Survey describes very few manors in Buckinghamshire as belonging to the church: there was no religious house of any consequence at that time in the county. The monasteries of Westminster, St. Albans, Barking, and St. Frideswide, in Oxford, had among them seven manors. In process of time, many of the lay-manors became annexed to various religious establishments of later foundation. Among the very few estates which continued any length of time in the descendants of those families, who possessed them at the time of the Norman Survey, may be mentioned Whitchurch, sold by the Earl of Oxford, (Hugh de Bolebec's representative,) in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; and Farnham, alienated in 1542, by the Earl of Shrewsbury, who was descended from Bertram de Verdon¹. Many of

* Rot. Famil. Ann. 18 Edw. I. in Turr. Lond.

¹ He is not mentioned among the *principal* land-owners, having had only the manor of Farnham, in this county, at the time of the survey.

the manors, described in the Survey, were either given to monasteries, or alienated in other ways, long before the families of the owners were extinct: many others, particularly those of the Bishops of Baieux and Constance, reverted to the crown, were disposed of by various grants, and divided amongst numerous families, whom, for want of records at that early period, it would be impossible to trace.

It may be collected from ancient deeds, still in existence, that the Grenvilles held large landed property in Buckinghamshire, about the commencement of the 12th century, under the Giffards, Earls of Buckingham, with which family they became connected by marriage. The only manors which have descended from this early period to their present lineal representative, the Marquis of Buckingham, are Wotton, the ancient seat of the family, Ashendon, and Ham. Grenville's manor, in Haddenham, was sold by this family, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth: Policote, a manor which was in the family at an early period, has been re-purchased; from time to time, other estates have been acquired by various purchases, to a great extent, and it is presumed that the Marquis of Buckingham may now be considered as the greatest land-holder in the county.

Among the earliest proprietors of land to be found on record, subsequent to the Norman survey, are the Hampdens, of whom the present Lord Hampden is the representative in the female line; the Blossomvilles and Girunds, whose families soon became extinct; the Passelews, who possessed their estates about 150 years; the family of Poges, whose landed property passed by female heirs to the families of Molins, Hungerford, and Hastings; the Tyringhams, whose estates are now enjoyed by their representative, Mr. Praed^m; and the Chetwodes, the Lovetts, and the Dayrells, still continuing in the male line, and still in possession of the estates of their ancestors. The Penns may perhaps be referred to the same period; their estates are now possessed by Lord Curzon, as representative in the female line of the elder branch. Mr. Penn, of Stoke, who has considerable estates in this county, acquired by purchase, is of a younger branch of the same family.

Between the commencement of the 14th century and the reformation, the principal families who became possessed of considerable property in this county, were the Whittinghams, whose estates passed by a female heir to the Verneys, and are now for the most part the property of Lady Fermanagh; the Bartons, and Fowlers, most of whose estates passed afterwards to the Ingletons and Tyrrells, of whom Mr. Sheppard of Thornton is now the representative; the Eyres of Burnham, lately

^m A younger branch of the Tyringhams continued the male line at Winchenden till 1735. Jane Tyringham, the heiress of this branch, married Mr. Beresford, but, having no issue, bequeathed her estates to her maternal cousin, Sir Francis Bernard bart. father of Scrope Bernard esq. the present proprietor.

extinct, represented in the female line by Mr. Sayer; the family of Reynes, long ago extinct; the Beauchamps, and Cobhams; the Cheynes, whose family continued to possess most of their estates in this county, till the death of Lord Newhaven, in 1728; the Bulstrodes and Brudenells; the Lees of Quarendon, whose large estates have been lately sold by their representative Lord Dillon; and the Purefoys, who became extinct in the male line in 1762, and are now represented by the Rev. G. H. Purefoy Jervoise. The Lees of Moreton and Hartwell became possessed of those, and other estates, which are still in the family, about the close of the 15th century: about the same time, the Pigotts, still of Dodershall, became possessed of estates in Buckinghamshire, as did also the Pakingtons, who have lately sold their property in this county, where they have long ceased to have a residence.

Very soon after the reformation, the noble family of Dormer became possessed of extensive landed property in this county, most of which has passed by marriage to the Stanhopes: Peterley continues still in the male line, being now the property of Lord Dormer. About the same time, the Wenmans became possessed of estates in Buckinghamshire, which are now vested in the executors of the late Lord Wenman, by whose death the title became extinct. The Fortescues became possessed of estates in this county, about the year 1580; on the death of the last baronet of that family, they descended to female heirs. The Bowyers purchased their estate at Denham in 1596; Denham-Court still continues in the family, but Denham-place, and other considerable estates in the neighbourhood, were sold, in 1673, to Sir Roger Hill, and are now the property of his representative in the female line, Benjamin Way esq. The Drakes, Borlases, and Dentons, became possessed of estates in the county, about the year 1600; those of the Drakes are still in the family; the estates of the Borlases passed by marriage to the Warrens, and have been wholly, or for the most part, sold by their representative, Sir John Borlase Warren, K. B.; the estates of the Dentons are now the property of their heiress, Mrs. Coke, mother of T. Wenman Coke esq. of Holkham. About the same period, or soon afterwards, the Busbys of Adstock (lately extinct), the Palmers of Dorney, the Bennets, Seares and Wallers, first became possessed of estates in Buckinghamshire: those of the Palmers are still in the family; those of the Bennets have descended by a female heir to the Marquis of Salisbury; the Seares and Wallers have still property in the county. About the close of the seventeenth century, the Freemans purchased Fawley; the Dashwoods made purchases in the county; the Grubbs became possessed of the estates which they now enjoy, at and near Horsendon; and the Lowndes family became possessed of considerable landed property in various parts of Buckinghamshire, which they still retain. About the beginning of the last century, Sir John Aubrey inherited considerable estates in the forest of Bern-

wood, which have passed from one family to another by a succession of female heirs (without alienation), ever since the Norman conquest. The Duke of Portland became possessed of Bulstrode, and his other estates in this county, about the same time, by purchase.

The present disposition of manerial property, excepting in the instances already mentioned, and a few others perhaps, which may unavoidably have escaped notice, is among families who have settled in, or become connected with, this county during the last century. Among the principal land-owners of this description, are the Duke of Marlborough, who possesses by purchase, among others, the estates which passed by a female heir, from the ancient family of Goodwin, to the Duke of Wharton; and Lord Carrington, who has fixed his country seat at High-Wycombe, and has purchased several manors in different parts of the county.

Nobility of the County, and Places which have given Title to any Branch of the Peerage.

THE county of Buckingham gave the title of duke to John Sheffield, Marquis of Normanby, who was advanced to that high dignity in 1703; his son Edmund, the second duke, dying in 1736, unmarried, the title became extinct, and has never since been revived. In 1746, John Lord Hobart was created Earl of Buckinghamshire, which title is now enjoyed by his grandson.

The townⁿ first gave title of earl to Walter Giffard, who died in 1103: his son of the same name dying without issue male, the title became extinct; but Camden says, that the famous Richard Strongbow, Earl of Pembroke, being descended from a female heir of the Giffards, assumed it in some deeds. Thomas of Woodstock, sixth son of King Edward III. was created Earl of Buckingham, in 1377; his son, Humphrey Plantagenet, succeeded to the title, but died without male issue. Humphrey, Earl of Stafford, being son of Edmund, Earl of Stafford, by Anne Plantagenet (daughter of Thomas of Woodstock), was raised to the dignity of Duke of Buckingham, in 1443: this title became extinct, by the death and attainder of Edward Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, in 1521. In 1617, King James I. created his favourite George Villiers, (who before enjoyed the titles of Baron of Whaddon, and Viscount Villiers,) Earl and Marquis of Buckingham; the following year his mother was created Countess of Buckingham for life; and in 1622, the marquis was advanced to the honourable title of Duke of Buckingham, which became extinct by the death of his son, and has never since been revived. Earl Temple was created Marquis of Buckingham, in 1784, and still enjoys that honour.

* Some say the county.

Robert Bruce was created Earl of Aylesbury in 1663; the title became extinct in 1747, but was revived in 1776, in the family of Brudenell, connected by marriage with the Bruces. Sir Edward Henry Lee was, in 1674, created Viscount Quarendon, in this county, and Earl of Litchfield, which titles became extinct in 1776. Robert Lord Dormer was, in 1628, created Viscount Ascot (a hamlet of Wing), and Earl of Carnarvon, which titles became extinct in 1709. Sir John Thompson was, in 1696, created Baron of Haverham; the title became extinct in 1744. In 1706, Thomas Lord Wharton was created Viscount Winchendon (in Bucks), and Earl of Wharton: these titles became extinct by the death of his son, the Duke of Wharton, in 1731. The following peers and peeresses were, on their elevation to that rank, described as of places in this county: Viscountess Corbet of Linchlade, 1679, (the creation was for life only); Lord Windfor, of Bradenham, 1529, (extinct); Lord Ruffel, of Cheynies, 1539, (now Duke of Bedford); Lord Dormer, of Wing, 1615; Lord Villiers, of Stoke-Poges, 1619, (extinct); Lord Pierrepont, of Hanslope, 1714, (extinct); Lord Cadogan, of Oakley, 1718; and Viscount Leinster, of Taplow, 1727, (Duke of Leinster in Ireland).

The time and manner in which the noble families of Grenville, Bentinck, Stanhope, Hampden, and Curzon, became connected with this county, has been already mentioned. The Marquis of Thomond's uncle settled at Taplow, in consequence of a marriage with the heiress of the Orkney family, who, in the early part of the last century, purchased of the Hampsons. Lord Boston's father became connected with this county in 1764, by the purchase of Hedfor, now the seat of the present Lord: Lord Carrington's purchase has been already mentioned.

Noblemen's Seats.

THE present seats of the nobility in Buckinghamshire are, Stowe, the magnificent mansion of the Marquis of Buckingham; Wotton, the ancient seat of his ancestors, now an occasional residence of his son, Earl Temple; Bullstrove, the Duke of Portland's; Taplow, the Marquis of Thomond's; Hedfor, Lord Boston's; Eythorp, an almost deserted mansion of the Earl of Chesterfield's; Hampden-house, and Penn-house, occasional residences of Lord Hampden, and Lord Curzon; Ditton Park, the late Earl of Beaulieu's; Dropmore, Lord Grenville's; Wycombe-abbey, Lord Carrington's; Hitchendon, the Countess of Conyngham's; and Middle-Claydon, Lady Fermanagh's. Peterley-house, an ancient mansion of Lord Dormer's, is occupied by a tenant; Aston-Abbots manor-house, belonging to the Earl of Chesterfield, does not appear to have been ever a seat of the family; Bidlesdon, formerly a seat of the Verneys, is now the property and residence of George Morgan

Morgan esq.; Latimers is now the seat of Lord George Cavendish, brother of the Duke of Devonshire. Baileys, the seat of the late Lord Godolphin, and lately in the tenure of the deceased Earl of Rosslyn, is at present unoccupied: the Countess of Orkney occupies Mr. Dupre's house, at Wooburn.

Among the principal mansions of the nobility, which have either been destroyed or become dilapidated, may be reckoned Ashridge, the seat of the late Duke of Bridgewater, by whom it was pulled down, and the materials sold in the year 1801; Cheynies, the seat of the noble family of Ruffel; Cliefden, a seat of the Earl of Inchiquin, formerly of George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham; Twyford, of the Wenmans; Winchendon, of the Duke of Wharton's; and Wing, of the noble family of Dormer. Cliefden-house was burnt down in the year 1795; Twyford and Wing have been entirely pulled down; the small remains of Winchendon are fitted up for a steward; what remains of Cheynies is inhabited by a farmer.

Baronets extinct and existing.

THE extinct baronets of Buckinghamshire are, Lee, of Quarendon, created in 1611, (afterwards earl of Litchfield); Dormer of Wing, 1615, (afterwards Earl of Carnarvon); Chester, of Chichley, 1619, (extinct in 1755); Bennet, of Bechampton, 1627, (extinct by the death of the grantee); Tyrrell, of Thornton, 1627, (extinct in 1755); Lawrence, of Iver; 1628; Pye, of Lekhamsted, 1641, (extinct by the death of the grantee); Drake, of Shardelows, 1641, (extinct by the death of the grantee, in 1669); Borlase, of Bockmer, in Medmenham, 1642, (extinct in 1688); Verney, of Middle-Claydon, 1660, (afterwards Earl Verney); Smith, of Radcliffe, 1661; Andrews, of Lathbury, 1661; Ingoldsby, of Lenthenborough, in Buckingham, 1661; Wittewronge, of Stanton-Barry, 1662; Tyrrell, of Hanslope and Castlethorp, 1665; More, of Maid's-Morton, 1665, (extinct by the death of the grantee); Thompson, of Haverham, 1673, (afterwards Lord Haverham); Seymour, of Langley, 1681; Jeffreys, of Bulstrode, 1681, (afterwards Lord Jeffreys); Denton, of Hillesden, 1699, (extinct by the death of the grantee).

The baronet branch of the Temple family, the Pakingtons, the Hampsons, and the Parsons family, who were all described as of that county, when advanced to the degree of baronet, have now no residence in Buckinghamshire.

Sir John Fortescue, of Salden, who died in 1656, was created a baronet of Nova Scotia: the title became extinct by the death of Sir Francis Fortescue, in 1729. The Longuevilles, baronets of Nova Scotia, now extinct, had for many years a seat at Wolverton. The Clerkes, now extinct, who had been many years resident at Hitcham,

Hitcham, quitted that place immediately after Sir John Clerke was created a baronet in 1660: they afterwards resided for a considerable time at Shabbington, in this county. The seats of these extinct baronets are, with very few exceptions, either pulled down, or become farm houses: Salden, the seat of the Fortescues, which was a very magnificent mansion, has experienced the former fate; Hitcham, the seat of the Clerkes, is occupied as a school; Shardelows still belongs to a collateral branch of the Drakes; Bullstrode is the seat of the Duke of Portland.

The following baronets have still seats in the parishes of which they were described in their patents of creation: Sir George Bowyer, of Denham, 1660 and 1794; Sir George Lee, of Hartwell, 1660; Sir John Dashwood King, of Halton and West-Wycombe, 1706; and Sir Jonathan Lovett, of Liscombe, in Soulbury, 1781. The period when their several ancestors became connected with this county, has been already mentioned: it may be added, that Sir Jonathan Lovett is the lineal descendant of William Lovet, who had estates in Bedfordshire and Berkshire, at the time of the Norman Survey; it is not known exactly at what time they became connected with this county, but they may be traced by family deeds as resident at their present seat in the reign of Edward II. Sir George Bowyer resides principally at Radley, in Berkshire; his father, the late Admiral Bowyer, who was created a baronet in 1794, succeeded to the more ancient title on the death of his elder brother.

Sir John Hort, when created a baronet in 1767, was described as of Mulso, in Buckinghamshire, but has no seat there: Sir Charles Harcourt Palmer has a seat at Dorney, which came into his family nearly two centuries ago by marriage: the title is of Kentish origin, and was inherited in 1725, on the death of Sir Thomas Palmer, of Wingham, in that county, by the Palmers of Dorney. Sir John Aubrey, of a Glamorganshire family, inherits his seat at Dourton, in this county, in consequence of the marriage of his ancestor, with the heiress of that estate, about the year 1700, as already mentioned. Sir Thomas Hanmer has a seat at Simpson, in this county, where he occasionally resides: it came with the manor of that place to his ancestor, in 1716, by marriage with the family of Walden. The ancestor of Sir William Clayton, who has a seat at Harleyford, near Marlow, was of Surrey, when created a baronet in 1732.

Sir Robert Bateson Harvey, an Irish baronet, has a seat at Langley, which he purchased in 1788.

Principal

Principal Gentry and their Seats.

THE history and antiquity of families is so much connected with the account of landed property, that after having spoken of the land-owners under a separate head, little remains to be said on this subject. Although Fuller has not made the same remark with respect to the gentry of this county, which he does in treating of those of Bedfordshire and Berkshire, it seems to be equally applicable; for the family of Dayrell appears to be the only one now existing in the male line, which is to be found in the list of gentry of 1433, excepting the Grenvilles, who have been since ennobled, and the Chetwodes, who have been created baronets: the latter, although they retain their estates, have long ceased to be resident in the county. There are two families of the Dayrells now existing; the Dayrells of Lillingstone, who were settled there at least as early as the year 1200, and the Dayrells who were of Langport, in Stow, (their present residence,) in 1416. The Colets, whose name is to be found in the above-mentioned list, have lately become extinct in the male line, and are represented by Mr. Stratfold Colet or Collet, as the name is now spelt, of Hale-Leys, in the parish of Wendover: Sir Henry Colet, Lord Mayor of London, father of Dean Colet, was of this family. The Doyleys, a very ancient Oxfordshire family, were of Greenland-house, in the parish of Hambleden, in the early part of the 17th century: this mansion was demolished in the civil wars, since which time, if not before, a younger branch of the family has resided at Parmour, in the same parish, now the seat of John Dooley esq. Mention of most of the principal Buckinghamshire families, and the time when they settled in the county, will be found under the head already mentioned*. The following is a list of the principal seats of the present gentry, as far as they could be ascertained: there may be some accidental omissions.

Addington, the seat of the Hon. Vere Poulett.	Butlers (in Weston- Turville),	} the seat of	Mrs. Tompkins.
Ankerwyke-house, (belonging to J. S. Harcourt esq.) in the occupation of John Crickett esq.	Caversfield,		Joseph Bullock esq.
Alton-Abbots, (belonging to the Earl of Chesterfield,) lately occupied by Col. Freemantle.	Chalfont-House,		Thomas Hibbert esq.
Barley-End House, in Ivinghoe, the seat of Mrs. Lucy.	Chefham,		William Lowndes esq.
Bidlesdon, late the seat of the Verney family, now of Geo. Morgan esq.	Clifton-Reynes,		Alexander Small esq.
Bradenham,	Court-Garden (Gr ^t . Marlow),		Rich. Davenport esq.
Great Brickhill,	Danesfield, (in Med- menham),		Robert Scott esq.
Brightwell,	Denham-Place,		Benjamin Way esq.
East-Burnham,	Dinton,		Rev. Wm. Goodall.
	Dodershall,		William Pigott esq.

* See p. 466, &c.

Gayhurst, or Gothurst, formerly the seat of the Digby family, now of Miss Wrighte, daughter of the late George Wrighte esq.

Gregories, (in Beaconsfield), the seat of Mrs. Burke.

Hall-Barn, in Beaconsfield, (Mr. Waller's), occupied by — Maxwell esq.

Hanslope-Park, -

Little-Harwood, -

Horfendon, -

Iver, -

Langport, (in Stow), -

Lathbury, -

Latimers, -

Lillies, (in Weedon, a hamlet of Hardwick), in the occupation of Edmund Nugent esq.

Lillingstone-Dayrell -

Linford, -

Mill-End, (in Ham-

bleden), -

Missenden Abbey, -

Newlands, (in Chal-

font St. Peter), -

Oak-End, (in Iver), -

Oving, -

Edward Watts esq.
Rev. Mr. Langston
John Grubb esq.
Edward Bury esq.
Charles Clowes esq.
Edmund Dayrell esq.
Manfell Dawkins
Manfell esq.

Lord Geo. Cavendish.

Paul Dayrell esq.
Rev. H. U. Uthwat.

Rev. John Hinde.
J. Oldham Oldham esq.

Sir H. T. Gott knight.
Fr. Sackv. Lloyd esq.
Gen. North. Hopkins

Parmoor, (in Ham-
bledon), -

Richings, (in Lang-
ley), -

Shalleston, -

Shardelows, (in
Amerham), -

Shenley, -

Stockgrove, (in

Soulbury), -

Stoke-Park, -

Turville-Park, -

Tyringham, -

The Vache, (in Chal-
font St. Giles), -

Wavendon -

Weedon-Lodge, (in
Hardwick), -

Westthorp-House,
(in Little-Marlow)

Weston-Underwood

Whaddon-Hall,

Wilton-Park, (in
Beaconsfield), -

Nether-Winchendon

Winflow, -

John Doyley esq.

John Sullivan esq.

M. P.

Rev. J. H. Purefoy
Jervoise.

T. D. Tyrwhit

Drake esq.

Rev. Primatt Knapp.

Edward Hanmer esq.

John Penn esq.

Thomas Butlin esq.

William Praed esq.

George Palliser esq.

Henry Hugh Hoare
esq.

John Tirrel-Morin esq

Tho. Wilkinson esq.

Geo. Courtenay esq.

William Lowndes esq.

James Dupré esq.

Scrope Bernard esq.

William Selby esq.

Among the principal deserted or demolished mansions of the gentry, in this county, may be reckoned Raans, in Amerham, now a farm house, formerly a seat of the Brudenels, ancestors of the Earl of Cardigan, who had estates in various parts of the county, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; Burston-House, in Aston-Abbots, formerly the seat of a younger branch of the Lees, of Quarendon; and Aftwood-bury, the seat of the Cranmers, (an extinct family,) both pulled down.

Geographical and geological Description of the County.

THIS county is bounded on the north by Northamptonshire, on the west by Oxfordshire, on the south and south-west by the river Thames, which divides it from Berkshire, on the north-east by Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire, and on the east by Middlesex.

The Agricultural Survey of Buckinghamshire describes its greatest length to be about 45 miles, its breadth 18 miles, and its circumference 138. Its contents are calculated

calculated at 518,400 statute acres^b. This Survey, printed in the year 1794, supposes the number of acres, in common fields, to have been then 91000, and the waste about 6000: several parishes have been since inclosed: the general nature of the soil is described to be a rich loam, strong clay, chalk, and loam upon gravel. The neighbourhood of the Chiltern-Hills is chalky, as their name is supposed to imply: these hills stretch across the county, from Bedfordshire to Oxfordshire, forming a part of that great chain, which extends from Norfolk to Dorsetshire: on the west side of the county, adjoining Oxfordshire, is a range of hills, of the calcareous stone, which is to be found parallel to the chalk hills, and at a few miles distance, during the greater part of their course. In that part of the county which borders on Bedfordshire, about Wavendon, Broughton, and the Brickhills, the soil is a deep sand: in this neighbourhood is found a rich blue marl, used for manure. The fertility of the vale of Aylesbury, which lies under the Chiltern-Hills, is almost proverbial: Fuller tells us, that one field in this vale, or, as he calls it, one entire pasture, in the manor of Quarendon, belonging to Sir Robert Lee, was let at 800*l.* *per annum*, yet the tenant complained not of his bargain: as the extent of the field is not mentioned, nothing can be learnt as to the value of the land in his time: the late report of the state of agriculture in this county confirms what has been said of the richness and fertility of the vale of Aylesbury, which has produced (say the authors of that report) such a system of indolence among the farmers of that district, rarely to be met with among that industrious part of the community, that, contented with the fertility which Nature has bestowed upon their lands, they neglect every artificial means, by which they might be rendered more productive. The common fields in this vale are very extensive: the northern parts of the county, where the soil is chiefly clay, are more inclosed: the most considerable commons in Buckinghamshire, are Wickham-Heath, containing about 1500 acres; Iver-Heath, containing about 1150 acres; Stoke-Heath, about 1000; Fulmer-Heath, about 600; and Great-Harwood Common, about 560. Wavendon-Heath was planted about the year 1778, with Scotch firs, by Francis Moore esq. of Egginton, in the neighbouring county of Bedford. The authors of the Agricultural Report, before quoted, tell us, that this gentleman received the gold medal from the Society for the Encouragement of Arts and Manufactures, for planting these firs; that the whole number planted was 51376; and that, in 1794, after having been several times thinned, there remained 17125 thriving trees, from 20 to 28 feet in height. The appearance of the heath (now, by purchase, the property of the Duke of Bedford) has been much improved by these plantations, and it exhibits some very picturesque scenery.

^b Dr. Beeke calculates the number of acres at 461,729. See his Observations upon the Income Tax.

The noble mansion and park of Woburn-Abbey are seen, perhaps, to more advantage from some parts of this heath, than from any other spot.

It is said by ancient historians, that this county was formerly so covered with woods as to be almost impassable, till Leofstan, abbot of St. Albans, had several of them cut down, because they afforded harbour for thieves. The whole of the Chiltern district is said to have been a forest: the western part, bordering on Oxfordshire, was occupied by the forest of Bernwood, which was disforested in the reign of King James I. The chief woodlands are now in that part of the county which lies to the south of the Chiltern-Hills, of which they occupy a considerable portion. Mr. Langley, in his account of the hundred of Desborough, published in 1797, says, that there were then 7000 acres of woodland in that hundred: he observes, that the quantity was continually decreasing, the land being cleared for cultivation; and he supposes that, in the preceding century, it had been double: the hundred of Burnham abounds also in woodland, particularly the parishes of Amer sham and Chesham: a tract of land on the Chiltern-Hills, extending from the Beacon-Hill, in Ellesborough, across the parish of Little-Kimble into that of Great-Kimble, and containing more than 100 acres, is covered with box-wood, which appears to be the natural growth of the soil. The neighbourhood of Chesham abounds with the black cherry, chiefly planted in hedge-rows. The prevailing timber of the southern part of the county is beech; one wood of which, in the parish of Wycombe, is said to contain 700 acres: the principal woodland in the northern part of Buckinghamshire, is Whaddon Chace, containing 2200 acres of coppices, interspersed with oak, ash, and other timber: the reporters of the agricultural state of this county, in 1794, complain, that the young timber was much destroyed by the deer, and the commoners' cattle.

That part of the county which lies south of the Chiltern, abounds with pleasing scenery, diversified with hill and vale, arable, meadow, and woodlands, particularly in the neighbourhood of Amer sham, and the Miffendens. Between Marlow and Henley the scenery is rendered still more beautiful by the addition of the river Thames, and the view of its opposite banks: the scenery of this county receives very little embellishment from church steeples: the fine spire of Hunslope, the great ornament of the north part of the county, was destroyed by lightning in 1804. There are now only three stone spires in the county, Buckingham, Olney, and that of Wotton, lately built by the Marquis of Buckingham: some fine old towers, in the vale of Aylesbury, have been of late much disfigured, by having been covered with rough-cast and white-wash: among the most striking prospects in the county, may be reckoned that from the hills above Ellesborough, commanding a very extensive view of the vale of Aylesbury; and that from a field, near Brill, com-

manding a great part of Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire ; but the most extensive prospect, perhaps, in the county, is from the tower of Penn Church : besides what it commands of Buckinghamshire, it extends into the counties of Berks, Oxford, Bedford, Herts, Essex, Kent, Middlesex, Surrey ; and, it is supposed, into some parts of Sussex and Northamptonshire. Lord Boston's house, at Hedfor, commands a very beautiful view over Windsor forest, and that part of Buckinghamshire which borders on the Thames.

Produce.

THIS county has long been famous for its produce of corn and cattle ; “ Buckinghamshire bread and beef,” was an old proverb. Camden speaks of the numerous flocks of sheep in the vale of Aylesbury, loaded with wool, and yielding great profit to their owners ; and Fuller tells us that the biggest bodied sheep in England were bred in this vale, where it was common in his time (1660) to give 10l. or more for a ram. The authors of the Agricultural Report of this county, give a very different account of the present state of sheep-farming in this district, which they observe is not likely to be improved, as grazing and dairy-farming seem to be the more favourite pursuits. They observe farther, that the lands are very subject to the rot, which prevents improvement, by the introducing of new breeds. Great numbers of oxen are fed in the vale of Aylesbury, for the Smithfield markets ; calves in great numbers are brought from the northern parts of the county, in which they are bred, to Aylesbury market, where they are purchased by the farmers of the Chiltern, particularly such as live in the neighbourhood of Chessham and Amersham, by whom they are fattened for the markets of the metropolis. The dairies in the vale furnish large quantities of butter, by contract, to the London dealers. In the neighbourhood of Aylesbury they are famous for rearing ducks very early in the Spring, which are sent to London, and sold at a high price.

NATURAL HISTORY.

Fossils.—This county produces no minerals of any value. At Wavendon, on the borders of Bedfordshire, are the celebrated fullers-earth pits, one of which is now only occasionally worked, in a close shaft. Mr. Pennant, on his journey from Chester, had an opportunity of seeing a large pit, which had been excavated to a considerable extent, and was open at the top. He thus describes the *strata* : “ the beds over the marl are first several layers of reddish sand, to the thickness of six yards ; then succeeds a *stratum* of sand-stone, of the same colour, beneath

beneath which, for seven or eight yards more, the sand is again continued to the fullers earth, the upper part of which, being impure, or mixed with sand, is flung aside; the rest taken up for use. The earth lies in layers, under which is a bed of rough white free-stone, and under that, sand, beyond which the labourers have never penetrated." The pits in the neighbouring parish of Aspley-Guise, in Bedfordshire, have not been worked for many years. The sale for this earth from the Wavendon pits, has of late much diminished, the dealers having got into a practice of procuring earth of an inferior quality, from other parts of the kingdom, which they sell as the produce of this neighbourhood.

The Survey of Domesday mentions some salt-works at Risborough; there are no mineral waters of any note in the county. There was formerly one of some repute at Cuddington, but it is not now known.

Very few extraneous fossils are to be seen in this county, except in the stratum of calcareous stone before mentioned, and which runs through the part of this county adjoining Oxfordshire. Woodward mentions *Bivalves*, found at and near Quainton^a and Dinton^b, and near Aylesbury^c; and *Echini*, near Amerham^d, on Raibury (Wyrardisbury^e) Common, and near Marlow^f; *Anmonites*, near Ellesborough^g; and *Belemnites*, near Lillingstone-Dayrell^h. The same author also mentions *Ætites-Geodes*, from Ellesboroughⁱ; and *Rhomboidal Selenitæ*, in clay, near Long-Crendon^k. A striated species of *Nautilus* is found in great abundance, and frequently of a very large size, in the yellow lime-stone near Dinton, with other extraneous fossils.

Rare Plants.—The only very rare plant known to the botanists, as indigenous to this county, is the *Dentaria bulbifera*, which being peculiar to the south-east corner of Buckinghamshire, and the adjacent parts of Middlesex, grows abundantly in some of the beech-woods of that district. Very few of the plants which are enumerated as rare, in the list annexed to Camden's Britannia, deserve that epithet: among the more rare of them are the *Dianthus caryophyllus*, the *Ophrys muscifera*, the *Paris quadrifolia*, the *Hieracium murorum*, the *Melampyrum cristatum*, and the *Jasione montana*. The *Astragalus glycyphyllus* has been observed growing abundantly in the neighbourhood of Wolverton and Haversham.

^a Vol. I. p. 42. f. 125. ib. p. 53. f. 432. 54. f. 442. ^b Vol. II. p. 43. a. 69. a. 73. a. 62. and a. 87. ^c Ib. a. 63. a. 70. a. 95. p. 45. a. 96. p. 47. c. 25. ^d Ibid. p. 48. d. 4. ^e Ibid. d. 4. ^f Ibid. d. 16. ^g Page 93. b. 1. ^h Page 74. i. e. ⁱ Page 102. d. 2. ^k P. 104. h. 1.

Rivers.

THE river Thames is the boundary and chief ornament of the southern part of Buckinghamshire, which it divides from Berkshire, during a course of about 28 miles; from about a mile north of Henley bridge, to the conflux of the farthest stream of the Colne; passing Medmenham, Great-Marlow, Hedfor, Taplow, Boveney, Eton, and Datchet.

The Colne, for a course of about 14 miles, is the eastern boundary of this county, separating it from Middlesex: it passes near Denham and Iver; through Colnbrook, to which it gives name; and near Horton and Wyrardisbury; falling into the Thames between Ankerwyke and Staines. The Colne produces trout, and various other fish.

The Thame, as its course is described in the best maps, appears to be formed of a junction of small streams, two of the most considerable of which join near Quarendon; one of these streams rises near Stewkley, in this county, and runs near Cublington and Hardwick; the other rises in Hertfordshire, and for a short distance is a boundary between the two counties, near Marfworth: it then crosses a nook of Hertfordshire, and enters Buckinghamshire, passing near Hulcot, and under Rowsham bridge. Some other brooks join these united rivulets before they reach Eythorp, where they become altogether a considerable stream, and acquire the name of a river. From Eythorp, the Thame passes by Nether-Winchendon, Chersley, and Nutley Abbey, to the town of Thame, in its course from which place it is for a few miles the boundary between Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire, passing by Shabbington and Ickford; a little beyond the last-mentioned village, it enters Oxfordshire; its course through this county having been about thirty miles, whether you follow one of the streams to its rise near Stewkley, or the other to the borders of Hertfordshire.

The mouth of the river Thame having been choaked up, and the channel narrowed for want of cleansing, two commissions of sewers were issued in the early part of the last century, but nothing effectual was done in consequence of disputes between the commissioners and land-owners. The nuisance having at length so far increased, that the neighbouring part of Buckinghamshire frequently exhibited the appearance of a lake for months together, a new commission was sued out in 1797, under which the object so long desired has been effected by removing obstructions, and restoring the ancient channel. The hay harvest is now secured from risk, and the adjacent country rendered more salubrious. The river Thame abounds with eels, which are claimed by the king; its other fish are principally pike, perch, chub, roach, and gudgeons.

The

The course of the Ouse through Buckinghamshire, or as a boundary to it, is very circuitous, being little less than 50 miles. It first becomes a boundary to this county in the parish of Turweston, near Brackley, separating it from Northamptonshire, and, having passed Westbury, for a few miles divides Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire: it then enters this county at Water-Stratford, passing near Radcliffe, to Buckingham; from thence to Thornton, a little beyond which it becomes again for a few miles a boundary between Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire, passing near Beachampton to Stony-Stratford, a little beyond which it enters the county a second time, and passes near Wolverton, Haverham, Stanton-Barry, Linford-Parva, and Lathbury, to Newport-Pagnell; from thence, between Gayhurst and Tyringham, to Olney, leaving Stoke-Goldington, Ravenston, and Weston-Underwood, on the left: from Olney it runs by Clifton-Reynes, and Newton-Blossomville; and, passing between Brayfield and Turvey, forms, for a short distance, a boundary between Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire, after which it quits this county near Snelfon, in the parish of Lavendon.

We are told that the following fish, of a remarkable size, were recorded on the kitchen walls of the old manor-house, at Tyringham, (now pulled down,) as having been caught in the river Ouse, in this county: a carp, in 1648, measuring 2 feet 9 inches in length; a pike, in 1658, 3 feet 7 inches in length; a bream 2 feet $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches; a salmon, 3 feet 10 inches; a perch, 2 feet; and a shad, in 1683, 1 foot 11 inches¹. Salmon, carp, and shad, are not in general reckoned amongst the fish of the Ouse.

The Ousel is a boundary between Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire, from Eaton-Bray to Linchlade, near Leighton-Bufard; where, entering this county, it runs near Stoke-Hamond, and Water-Eaton, to Fenny-Stratford; thence by Simpson, Walton, the two Woolstons, and Willien, to Newport-Pagnell, where it falls into the Ouse. Its course, as connected with this county, (being almost from its source,) is nearly thirty miles. This river is remarkable for fine perch, pike, and bream.

The river Wick, or Wyke, rises at West-Wycombe, where it ornaments the grounds of Sir John Dashwood King; from thence, passing by High-Wycombe, and through Lord Carrington's grounds, it runs by the village of Wooburn, and falls into the Thames, near Hedfor: this little river produces trout and other fish.

Navigable Canals.

THE Grand Junction Canal enters Buckinghamshire near Wolverton, where it is carried across the valley over the river Ouse, which is here the boundary of the county,

¹ Pennant's Journey from London to Chester.

by an aqueduct of about three quarters of a mile in length : it passes near Linford-Magna, leaving Newport Pagnell on the north ; by the Woolstons, Woughton, and Simpson, to Fenny-Stratford ; thence leaving Stoke-Hamond, Soulbury and Linchlade, on the west, it follows the course of the river Ouse to Grove, leaving Leighton-Bufard, in Bedfordshire, on the east, and afterwards leaves Cheddington on the west, and Slapton, Ivinghoe, and Marfworth on the east : near the last-mentioned place it quits the county.

In the year 1794, an act of parliament passed for making cuts from the towns of Aylesbury, Buckingham, and Wendover, to communicate with the Grand Junction Canal.

Roads.

THE great road from London to Chester and Holyhead enters Buckinghamshire between the 41st and 42d mile-stones, (in the course of the ancient Watling-Street,) and passing through Little-Brickhill, Fenny-Stratford, Shenley, and Stony-Stratford, quits the county at Old-Stratford, near the 53d mile-stone. The great road to Liverpool enters this county near the 43d mile-stone, about a mile beyond the town of Woburn, and passes through Wavendon, Broughton, Newport-Pagnell, and Lathbury, between Gayhurst and Tyringham, and through Stoke-Goldington, about two miles beyond which it enters Northamptonshire, between the 57th and 58th mile-stones. The road from London to Oxford, Bath, &c. enters this county at Colnbrook, and, passing through Slough, quits it at Maidenhead bridge. The other road to Oxford (commonly called the Wycombe road) enters Buckinghamshire just beyond Uxbridge, and passes through Beaconsfield, High-Wycombe, and West-Wycombe, quitting the county near Stokenchurch, a little beyond the 37th mile-stone. The road from London to Banbury quits the Wycombe road at the 18th mile-stone, and passes through the two Chalfonts, Amersham, the two Miffendens, Wendover, Aylesbury, Hardwick, Whitchurch, Winslow, Adstock, Padbury, Buckingham, and Tingewick ; a little beyond the last-mentioned place, after passing the 60th mile-stone, it enters Northamptonshire. The ancient course of the road from Aylesbury to Buckingham left Hardwick, Whitchurch, and Winslow on the right ; passing through East-Claydon, and between Steeple-Claydon and Padbury, as appears by Ogilby's roads of England and Wales, published in 1736. The turnpike road from Buckingham to Brackley passes by Shalleston and Westbury. The road from London to Aylesbury, through Tring, enters Buckinghamshire, between the 32d and 33d mile-stones, and, passing through Aston-Clinton, joins the other road near Aylesbury. The road from Reading to Ware, in Hertfordshire, enters this county a little beyond Henley, and continues along the banks of the

Thames through Medmenham to Great-Marlow; thence to High-Wycombe; over Wycombe heath to Amer sham; and over Amer sham common to Cheynies; a little beyond which it enters Hertfordshire. A turnpike road from Aylesbury to Bicester passes through Fleet-Marston, and Waddesdon, quitting the county just beyond Ludgerhall common. From Newport-Pagnell a turnpike road passes through Sherrington and Emberton to Olney; and thence, through Cold-Brayfield, towards Bedford. Another road, passing through Weston-Underwood, connects Olney with the Northampton road.

The road from Newport-Pagnell to Bedford, passing through Chicheley and Aitwood, which was formerly the principal road from Oxford to Cambridge, and the route of the judges on the midland circuit, is still so described in the Itineraries; but it has been many years neglected and disused, and is now quite impassable for carriages.

In 1795, a new line of turnpike-road was projected from West-Wycombe, through Princes-Risborough, into the Aylesbury road near Wendover. That end of it which passes through West-Wycombe and Bradenham has been completed; and several new pieces of road have been made in the parishes of Risborough and Kimble: the rest remains incomplete. In 1801, an act of parliament was passed for making a new road from London to Windsor, through Datchet, to quit the Bath road near Longford, and pass through Horton to Datchet.

Manufactures.

FULLER says, that *bone* lace (an obsolete term for thread lace) was made in the neighbourhood of Olney; but that Buckinghamshire was not to be considered as a manufacturing county, "more people living by the lands than the hands." It is to be presumed, that the lace manufacture has been much extended since Fuller's time*, as it is now pretty general in most parts of the county: it is still carried on to a great extent in and about Olney, where veils, and other lace of the finer sort, are made, and great fortunes are said to be acquired by the factors. Lace-making is, in no part of the county, so general as at Hanslope, and in its immediate vicinity; but it prevails for 15 or 20 miles round, in every direction. At Hanslope not fewer than 800, out of a population of 1275, were employed in it, in the year 1801: children are there put to the lace schools, at or soon after five years of age; at eleven or twelve years of age, they are able to maintain themselves without assistance:

* Although there is no doubt but that this manufacture has very much increased within the last century, yet still the majority of the county are to be considered as labourers in husbandry. It appears, by the returns made to parliament under the Population Act, in 1801, that there were, at that time, 25,083 persons employed chiefly in agriculture; and 20,138 in trade, manufactures, and handicraft.

both boys and girls are taught to make it; and some men, when grown up, follow no other employment: others, when out of work, find it a good resource, and can earn as much as the generality of day-labourers: the lace made at Hanslope is from 6d. to two guineas a yard in value. It is calculated, that from 8000l. to 10000l. neat profit is annually brought into this parish by the lace manufacture.

The manufacture of paper has been carried on in the neighbourhood of Wycombe for more than a century, and there are now several mills on the Wyke, which are employed for that purpose.

ANTIQUITIES.

Roman Remains.—Very few Roman remains have been discovered in Buckinghamshire: a Mosaic pavement and Roman coins were found at High-Wycombe, in Lord Shelbourne's grounds, in the year 1722^b; a Roman vessel and coins were found in digging a cellar in the High-Street there; and Roman coins, and other remains, in Desborough field, near the same place: coins have also been found near Princes-Risborough; Ellefborough, and Fenny-Stratford, in a place called the Auld-fields, where also foundations of buildings have been dug up: an amphora was found several years ago in a sand-pit, on Wavendon-Heath^c; and a small glass vessel, and some spear heads, near Dinton, in 1769^d.

Roman Roads and Stations, (communicated by the Bishop of Cloyne.)—"The Roman stations, in this county, are little better ascertained than those in Berkshire, but the roads are traced with more ease and certainty.

"The Ikening-Street enters its eastern borders near Edlesborough, still preserving its course on the edge of the Downs, leaves Pitston close on its right, and Tring on its left; then passing Drayton on the right, and crossing the high road from Aylesbury to London near the 33d mile-stone, leaves Halton to the right, and proceeds to Wendover, through which it passes; after which, leaving Ellefborough Church and Kimble-Magna on the right, it runs through Ascot, goes at the foot of Whiteleaf Crosse, and keeps both Monks-Risborough and Princes-Risborough on its right; making, in this part of its course, a very remarkable bend, in order to keep on the high ground^e: it then passes through Calverton; and, recovering its

^b See Langley's History of the Hundred of Desborough, p. 29. This pavement was said to have been "diversified with a great variety of works, and in the centre the figure of a wild beast, &c." Ibid. p. 30. ^c See fig. 4. in the plate at p. 24. ^d See Archæologia, vol. X. p. 169.

^e There is a road running nearly parallel with this, under the Chiltern Hills, called by the country people, the "Lower Acknell Way."

former line near Saunderton, which it leaves on the right, enters Oxfordshire near Chinner. In this county, as in that of Bedford, it passes many camps and earth-works, of various forts, on the hills; but, unlike the roads which are known to be Roman, never bends towards them, or seems to have any connection with them.

“ The Watling-Street enters the county with the modern Irish road, at the 42d mile-stone, and proceeds, perfectly straight, through Brickhill, Fenny-Stratford, and Stony-Stratford, at which last town it crosses the Ouse into Northamptonshire: all traces of the Roman causeway are, of course, obliterated by the present turnpike road; but no doubt seems to be entertained of its line, whatever difference of opinion there may be in determining the site of the itinerary stations upon it.

“ The Akeman-Street, which formed a connection between the southern parts of Wales and the more eastern counties of England, runs, as we have before observed in speaking of its course, through Bedfordshire, in an intermediate direction between the two British trackways, the Ikeneld and the Rykneld; and, although it is our intention to speak more fully of it, as we can then do with more certainty, when we treat of it in the counties of Gloucester and Oxford, yet we must again remark, how impossible it is for even a careless observer not to notice its general bearing, on looking at those parts of it which still remain perfect, near its eastern and western extremities. The names given to our ancient roads, in maps, are but little regarded by well-informed topographers; as the surveyors or engravers, in many counties, have affixed, without care or knowledge, the peculiar titles of the British or Roman ways to any road which happened to approach them; thus, in the common maps, the name of the Akeman-Street, has been given to a vicinal way, leading from Aylesbury into Oxfordshire, in a direction totally different to the bearing of the Akeman-Street, in any part of its course: the name of Watling-Street to the road leading from Dunstable to Woburn: and the Roman road from Cricklade to Spene, though it still continues visible and highly raised, on the limits of Wilts and Berks, is represented in all the maps as running far to the right by Albourn. I could mention mistakes equally glaring in our modern surveys, and sometimes in the writings of our most respectable antiquaries, as Leland, &c. who, through inadvertence, frequently give to a vicinal road, leading to a principal streetway, the name of that streetway itself, although it may happen to be in a very different direction. With respect to the real course of the Akeman-Street, in this county, while some adopt the conjecture of Stukeley, that, in its way from Alcester, it passed not far from Winslow, and then by Fenny-Stratford: there are others, whose opinion I prefer, who suppose it went to the north of this route, by Hide-Lane, near Buckingham, Stony-Stratford, Stanton, Newport, and Bedford, to Sandy.

“ The road which is falsely named the Akeman-Street, in our present maps, appears to have come from Bicester, in a line with the modern turnpike, towards the Berry-fields, near Aylesbury, and may have been part of a Roman road, leading from Alcester to Verulam or London.

“ Another road, proceeding from the camp at Alcester, went, on the very north-westerly borders of this county, in a direct line through Bicester; and, leaving Stratton-Audley to the right, passed by Newton-Pricell and Finmore, in Oxfordshire; crossed the road from London to Banbury, near the 61st mile-stone; went through Water-Stratford, and seems to have ran near Stowe, in its way to Towcester.

“ It is also mentioned by some writers, that traces of a Roman road, under the usual name of the Portway, are found about Stone and Hartwell, to the west of Aylesbury: if we had any good reason for supposing, with Stukeley, that Thame was the Roman town of Tamesis, we should not be surprised to find a road in such a direction; but as Stukeley's idea is founded on nothing more than the resemblance of the name, and as the bearing of the road itself is not described to us, it is impossible to speak of it with any certainty.

“ The Roman stations in this county, from the few visible remains, appear almost as difficult to fix as the roads; but the distances, in the iters of Antonine and Richard, correspond so exactly, that, by following them, we cannot err much from the ancient sites: at the distance of 12 miles from *Verulam*, was the station of *Durocobriovæ*, or *Forum Dianæ*, which we have before mentioned to be at Dunstable; and 12 miles farther we find *Magiovintum*, which will fall certainly within the limits of Buckinghamshire; and if we attend to the distance on the road, precisely at Fenny-Stratford: then proceeding 17 miles farther, we arrive at Towcester, in Northamptonshire, which must have been *Laetodorum*. This interpretation makes the stations, on the road between the two certain points of *Verulamium* and *Vennonæ*, agree perfectly with the positions assigned them in the itinerary; and it receives very strong confirmation from the remains of the Roman station still existing, near Fenny-Stratford. The site of this station is called the *Auld* fields, about a quarter of a mile from the present village, and is on a small elevation, on the south side of the rivulet: it is the very position likely to have been chosen by the Romans; and coins, and foundations of buildings, have been dug up there in abundance; Browne Willis had many of the former in his possession.

“ In treating of the western part of this county, Camden mentions a Roman town, which he supposes to have been destroyed by the Danes, in 914, at a place, called the Burgh-Hill, and by contraction the Brill; and adds, that Roman coins were found there in his time; which, though doubted by Kennet in his Parochial Antiquities, is confirmed by Gale's MS. with the observation, that such coins are called *kimbrels*,

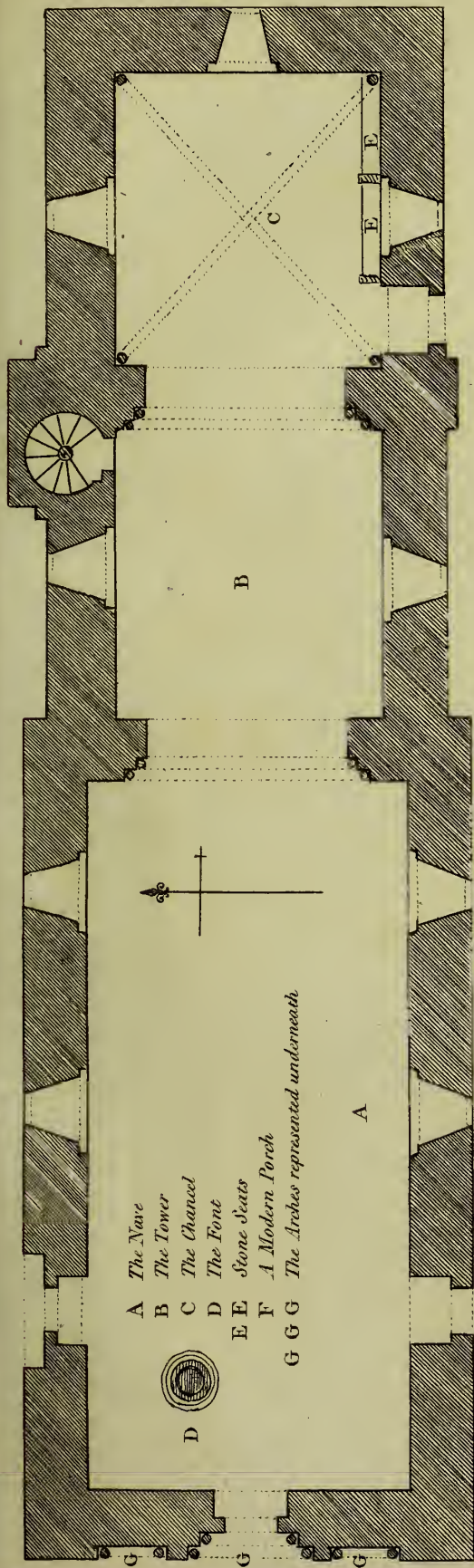
in

in the neighbourhood; and as this seems to infer, that these marks of a Roman town have been found commonly, and in abundance, it requires some examination: the present inhabitants, however, have no knowledge of any coins, or other marks of antiquity, having been discovered in the parish; and the mere existence of an ancient camp is by no means sufficient to establish the hypothesis of Camden."

Church Architecture.—The church first entitled to notice, in this county, on account of its antiquity and curiosity, is Stewkley, which is one of the most complete specimens of Saxon architecture we have remaining; no part of it, internally or externally, having been altered, or materially defaced, nor have any additions been made to it, except the porch on the south side, and the pinnacles of the tower. The form of this church is oblong, 94 feet in length within side, including the chancel. The nave is 21 feet 8 inches in width: the chancel has a vaulted ceiling, the groins of which are diagonal, and ornamented with the zig-zag moulding: the east window is small and round-headed, as are all the windows of this church: there appears to have been originally a very highly-pitched roof over the vaulted roof of the chancel, forming an upper story, which appears to have existed in several churches, evidently built about the same time: a square massive tower, the upper part of which has, on every side, a row of small pillars, and interlaced circular arches, divides the chancel from the nave: under the tower are two arches, highly enriched with zig-zag mouldings and grotesque heads. The west front of this church affords a very rich example of the Saxon ornaments: the great door has a circular arch, enriched with several zig-zag mouldings, within which are figures of dragons: on the sides of the door-way are small pillars; the shafts of two of them are ornamented with spiral mouldings, and the capitals with foliage and figures of animals: on either side of the door is a smaller arch in the wall, with similar decorations: other parts of this curious building will be better understood by the annexed plates.

In Water-Stratford church there is a door-way, having a circular arch, enriched with Saxon ornaments, including a figure of our Saviour, within an oval compartment, supported by two angels*, carved in *basso relievo*. At Dinton church is another remarkable door-way of this kind, in which, besides the usual Saxon ornaments, there appears a Roman *Guilloche*; the pillars have spiral shafts: within the arch there is a rude carving, in bas relief, of two dragons devouring fruit from a tree, and of St. Michael thrusting a cross into the mouth of the great

* There is a similar bas relief on a door-way of Ely Cathedral, figured in Bentham's history of that building.



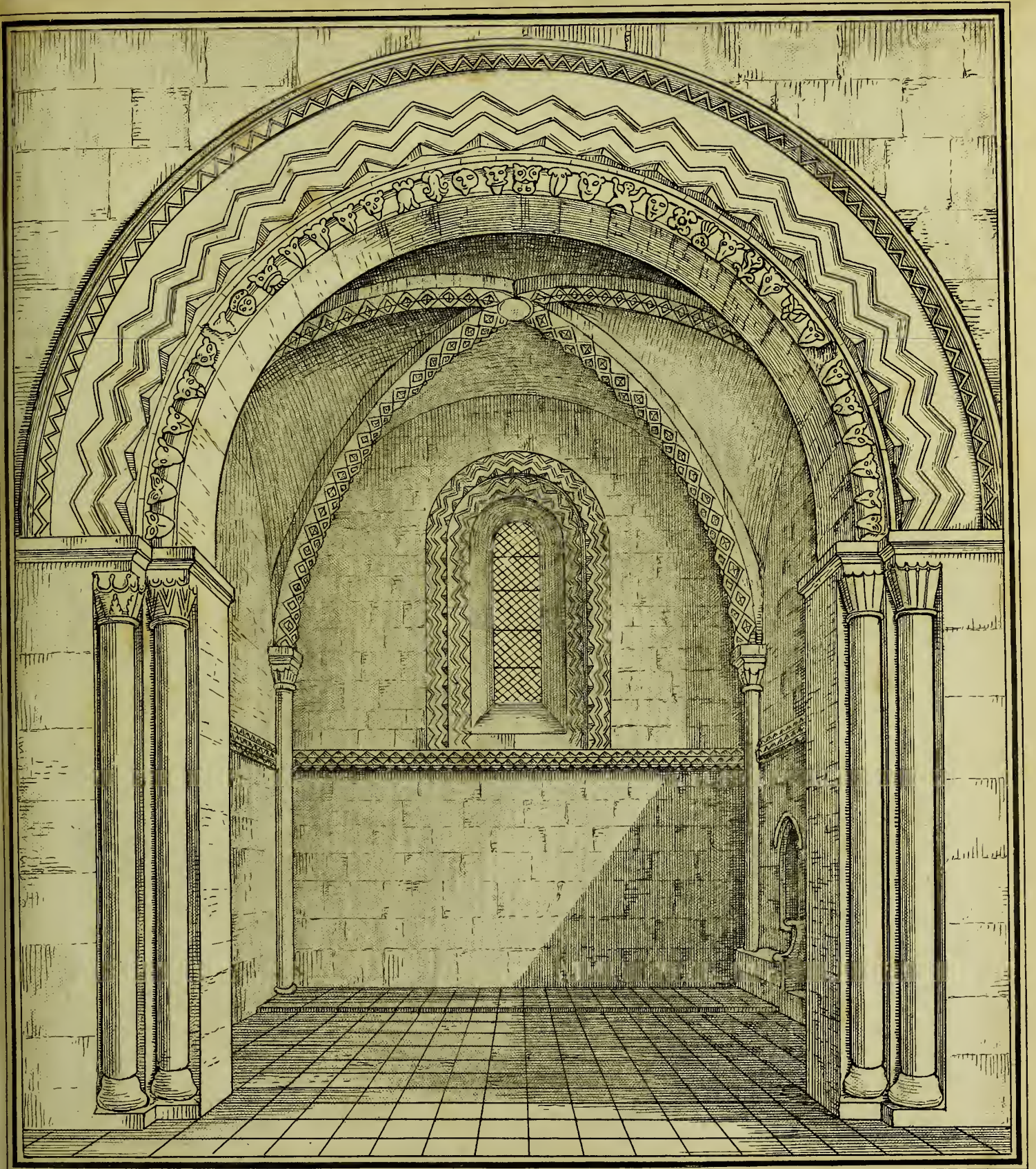
- A The Nave
- B The Tower
- C The Chancel
- D The Font
- E E Stone Seats
- F A Modern Porch
- G G The Arches represented underneath



PLAN OF STEWKLEY CHURCH.

0 5 10 20 feet





CHANCEL OF STEWKLEY CHURCH.

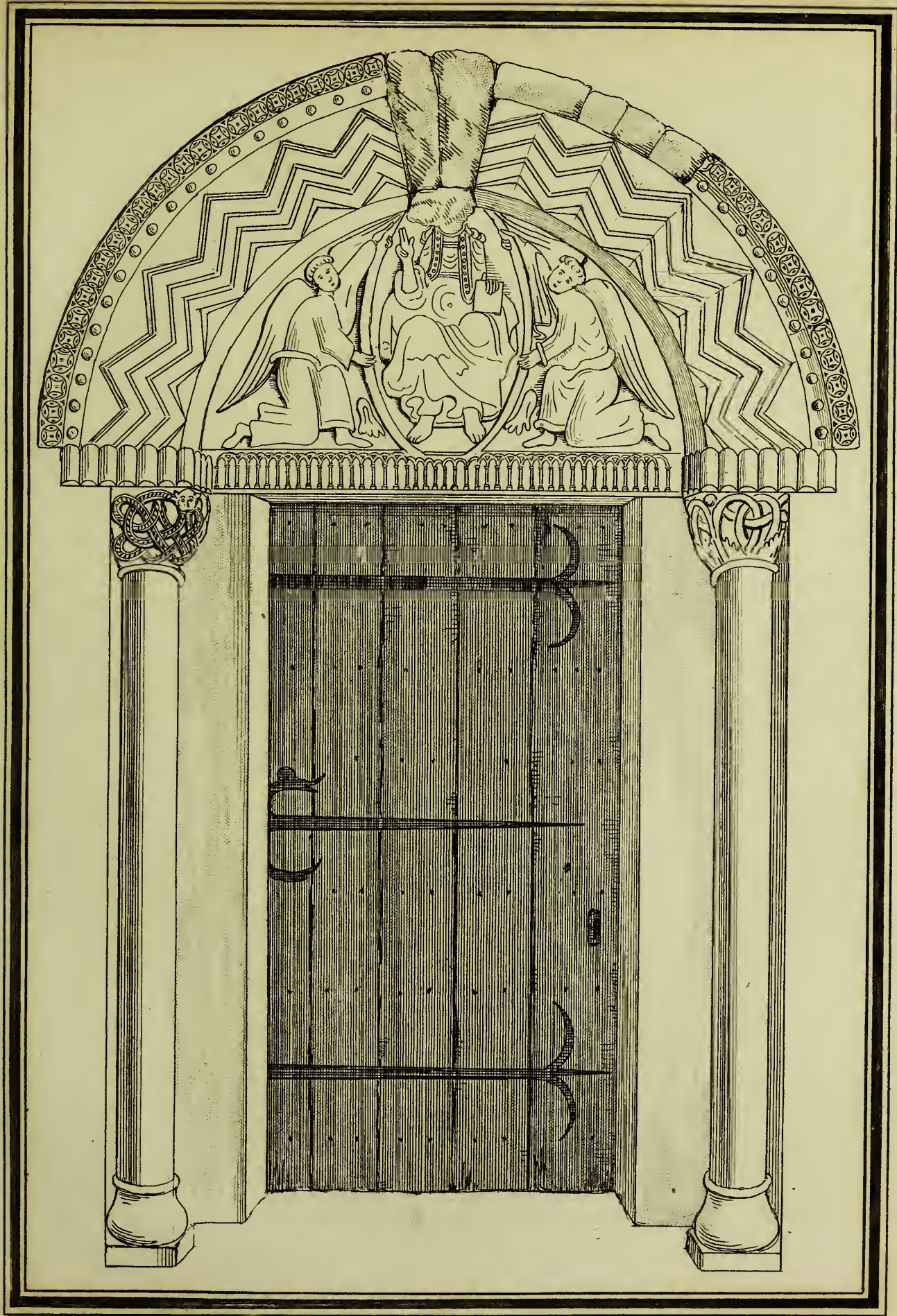




DOOR-WAY OF DINTON CHURCH, BUCKS.

Published by E. Collett & W. Davies, Strand 30th Nov^r 1863





DOOR OF WATER-STRATFORD CHURCH, BUCKS.

dragon: between these two there is the following inscription, consisting of two rhyming hexameters, in Roman capitals:

PREMIAPROMERITISSIQ, SDESPETHABENDA.
AVDIATHICPRCEPTASIBIQVESITRETINSNDA.

Which may be read thus:—

*Premia pro meritis si quis desperet habenda,
Audiat hic precepta sibi quæ sint retinenda.*

In Stanton-Barry church, between the nave and chancel, there is an arch richly ornamented with Saxon mouldings and heads of animals: the shafts of the pillars are also enriched with a great variety of mouldings and ornaments.

Upton church retains its original form, and is on the same plan as that of Stewkley, but less ornamented, and much smaller: the roof of the chancel is of stone, and groined; and there is a plain square tower between the nave and chancel.

The door-way of the ancient chapel of St. Thomas à Becket, now the free school, at Buckingham, and those of Caverfield, Horton, Lathburg, Waddesdon, Wormenhall, Westbury, and Twyford churches, are circular, with Saxon mouldings, and other ornaments: there are also remains of this style of architecture in Fingest, Hanslope, Lekhampsted, Stone, Tyringham, and Tingewick churches.

The door-way of the nave of Bletchley church has a pointed arch, enriched with Saxon ornaments: in Ratcliffe church is a door-way, with a pointed arch, ornamented with a fret moulding and flowers.

There are very few examples of Gothic architecture in the Buckinghamshire churches, of sufficient consequence to entitle them to particular notice, except those of Chetwode and Hillesden: the former of these was the conventual church of the priory, which was founded at Chetwode, in the year 1244; and from the style of what remains, may fairly be considered as coeval with the foundation: the chancel is preserved in its original state, having lancet-shaped windows, with slender pillars, the capitals of several of which are highly enriched with figures of animals and foliage: there are some remains of this style of architecture in the church of Princes-Risborough, where some of the windows of the south aisle are lancet-shaped, with slender detached pillars. Hillesden church, which was rebuilt about the year 1493, affords a rich example of the later Gothic: it is in a very perfect state, except the groined roof of the north porch, which has fallen down: the inside is richly ornamented, especially the chancel, the walls of which are covered with Gothic tracery.

Ancient

Ancient Stained Glass.—Some of the most ancient and most elegant specimens of stained glass to be found in this kingdom, remain in the chancel of Chetwode church: from the style of the ornaments with which they are enriched, from the dresses of the figures, and the form of the letters, in an inscription under that of St. Nicholas^f, to whom the church was dedicated, and also from the style of the royal arms^g, there remains little room for doubt of this glass being coëval with the first erection of the church, on the foundation of the priory, to which it belonged about the year 1244; and that it was one of the earliest works of that kind produced in England; since the windows, till after the introduction of the earliest Gothic architecture, were too small to have admitted of any diminution of light. The first and the fourth lights of this window, from the north-side of the chancel, are nearly entire^h: in the former are three figures, in oval compartments; two of them representing saints, and the third a king, probably intended for the reigning monarch, Hen. III.: in the latter are figures of two bishops, and St. Edmund with his symbols, a bow and quiver of arrowsⁱ: the other parts of these lights are filled up with tracery of foliage, &c. on plain glass, in an infinitely more elegant style, if not so brilliant as that which came into use when the church windows were enlarged in succeeding ages, and entirely filled with coloured glass. In the church of Chesham-Bois are some small windows, in the style of the 14th century, filled with stained glass, consisting of tracery of foliage, and coats of arms^k. In Hitcham church there are considerable remains of stained glass, chiefly in the windows of the chancel, in each of which is the figure of an angel, standing on a wheel: the upper compartments of the east window of the chancel, which is large and elegant, are nearly entire: from the style of the windows, with which the glass appears to be coëval, and the form of the letters in several inscriptions^l, it seems probable that it was executed about the middle of the fourteenth century:

The east window of the north aisle of Hillesden church is nearly filled with small compartments of stained glass, containing representations of different scenes, taken from the Legend of St. Nicholas, to whom the church was dedicated, with inscriptions under each, pointing out the subject as "*Mortuus ad vitam redit precibus Nicolai, &c.*"

^f This figure is in a fourth window of the chancel: the inscription, "*Amicus Dei Nicholas,*" is represented in the annexed plate, fig. 2.

^g See the annexed plate, fig. 5.

^h The whole of the first of these, (except some of the lower part, which has no figures,) is represented in fig. 4. of the annexed plate.

ⁱ Ibid. fig. 3.

^k One of the windows on the north side of the nave is represented in the annexed plate, fig. 1.

^l Under one of the figures of angels above mentioned is inscribed, "*Virtutes;*" under another, "*Dominaciones,*" in Lombardic capitals.

Fig. 1.



Fig. 4.



Window in Chesham-Bow Church.

Fig. 2.

AMICVS DEI NICOLAUS

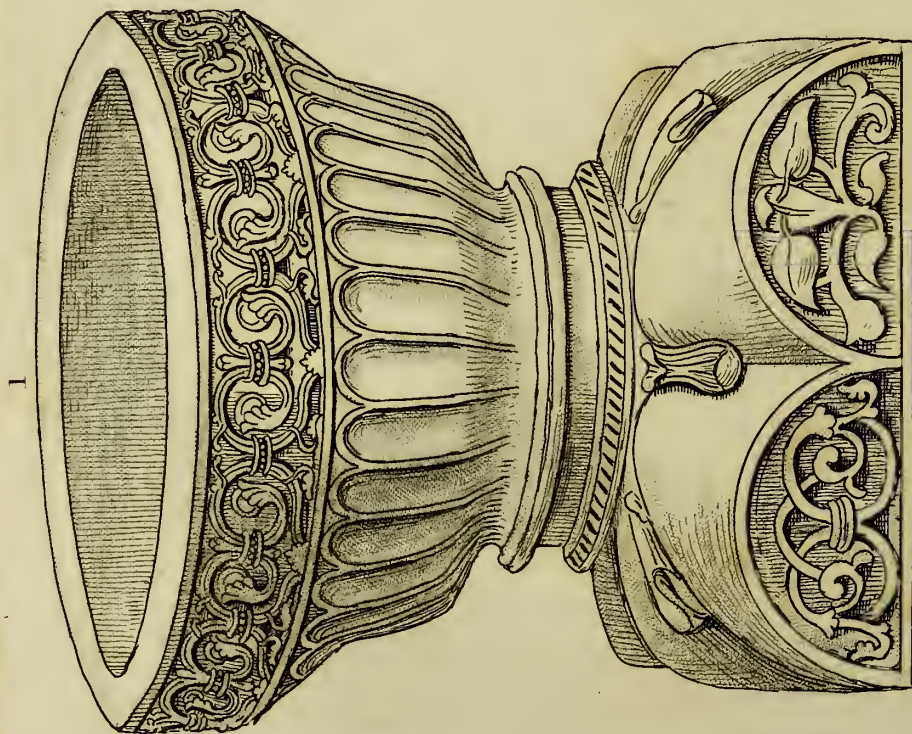
Fig. 3.



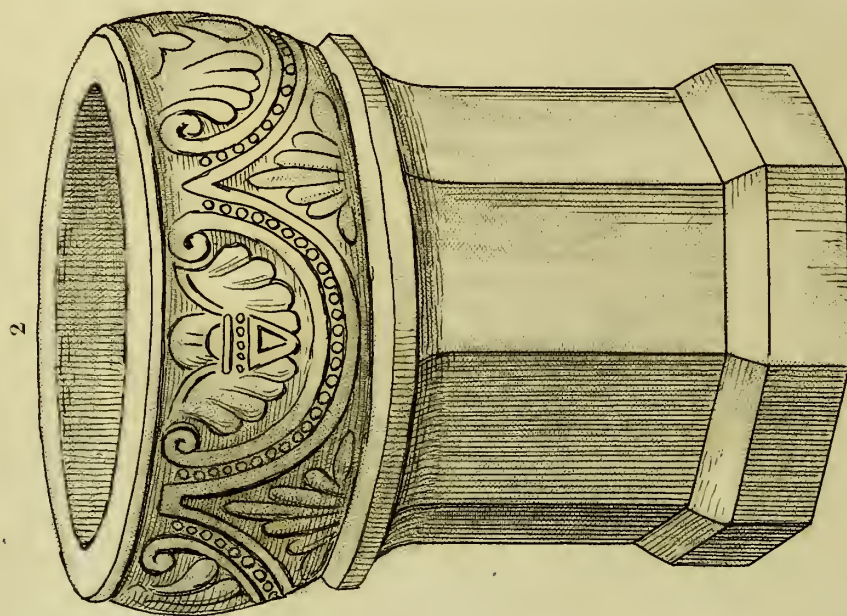
Fig. 5.



Ancient stained glass in Chetwode Church, Bucks.










Font in Aylesbury Church.



In Maids-Morton Church.



Part of the Corbel-table, in the Hall of Nutley Abbey.

Inscription at Nulley Abbey.

In Drayton-Beauchamp church there are eight figures of the apostles, in stained glass, of a large size.

Roodlofts, Gothic Niches, &c.—In North-Crawley church there is a rood-loft and skreen, enriched with figures of saints, under Gothic canopies; and in Great-Marlow church an embattled skreen of chalk, enriched with Gothic tracery: in the south aisle of Great-Harwood church is a niche, under which is a shield, with emblems of the crucifixion, &c. The porch of the north door of Great-Linford church has a groined roof, the centre of which is enriched with foliage: the south porch of Milton-Keynes church has an open Gothic skreen on each side: in Chilton church is a reading-desk of stone. There is a figure of St. Faith on the outside of Newton-Longueville church.

Fonts.—There are more than seventy circular fonts in the Buckinghamshire churches, and some of these are evidently the most ancient in the county: those of Aylesbury and Maids-Morton are richly ornamented with foliage; Hitchenden, Upton, Drayton-Beauchamp, and Caversfield, are surrounded with arches; Dinton is enriched with a border of quatrefoils; Hedgerley with heads of animals, &c.; Dorney and Hambleden with crosses-florées; Hawridge with a border of roses. The fonts of the following churches are octagonal, and variously ornamented: those of Sherrington and Clifton-Reynes are enriched with figures in niches; Drayton-Passleew, with Gothic canopies, over which are shields, with coats of arms; Fingest is enriched with arches; Farnham and Langley with quatrefoils; Emberton and Lavendon with Gothic tracery; Lekhampsted with bas-reliefs of the Crucifixion, St. Catherine, &c. rudely executed; North-Marston with roses, and Princes-Risborough with heads and roses. The fonts in Taplow church, and Chalfont St. Giles, are square, the former has circular arches on the sides, and stands on a round shaft.

Stone Stalls and Piscina.—There are stone stalls in the chancels of several of the Buckinghamshire churches: there is one stone seat, with a *piscina* adjoining in St. Leonard's chapel, and also in Lee and Wroughton churches; in the church of Milton-Keynes are two, with arches, and a double *piscina*; in that of Preston-Bisset, a double stone seat; in Chetwode church are three, and a *piscina*, with sharply-pointed arches of the reign of Henry III. with pillars, the capitals of which are ornamented with foliage; these stalls are enriched with the flowers, in a deep groove, so frequently to be seen in works of the same age: in Aston-Clinton church are three of equal height, with a *piscina*, ornamented with pinnacles and crockets; in the north wall is a niche, with similar ornaments: in Clifton-Reynes and Langley

churches are three stone stalls, with a *piscina*; those in the latter are of unequal height: at Emberton are also three of unequal height, having on them the arms of Tyringham: at Hambleton are three, ornamented with foliage: at Maid's-Morton three, of equal height, with a *piscina*, having rich Gothic canopies, ornamented with crockets, tracery, &c.: at North-Marston are three, and a *piscina*, with rich Gothic ornaments, but much mutilated: in Sherrington church are three stone seats, of unequal height, the upper parts of which are divided into compartments, like a window, within a circular arch: at Whitchurch three, of unequal height, under one obtuse arch, with a double *piscina*: at Wavendon, on the north side of the chancel, are three seats, with round arches, and the same number on the south side: at Edlesborough three, of unequal height. In each of the several churches of Great-Harwood, Twyford, and Walton; are three stone seats, and *piscinæ* with the two last. In Newton-Longueville church are two *piscinæ*; one of these is ornamented with shields, bearing the arms of William of Wickham, &c.: at Weston-Turville is a double *piscina*, and a single one at Wexham. At Lillington-Dayrell is a *piscina*, and a row of four irregular arches.

Ancient Tombs.—In Ashendon church there is the effigies of a crusader, under an obtuse arch, rudely ornamented with foliage; it appears, from the arms, to have been intended for one of the family of Stafford: in the church of Clifton-Reynes are several ancient tombs; under a pointed arch, in the north wall of the north aisle, are the effigies of a crusader and his lady, carved in wood, said to have been intended for some of the family of Reynes, who probably built that aisle: there is an ancient tomb under another arch, on the north side of the chancel, having the effigies of a knight and his lady, carved in stone; he is in plated armour, with a gorget of mail: on this tomb are the arms and quarterings of Beauchamp: under a similar arch, in the same wall, are the figures of a crusader and his lady, carved in wood, with the arms of Zouche*.

In the north wall of the chapel, adjoining the chancel of Hitchenden church, is the effigies of a crusader, in mail and surcoat, under a pointed arch: in the same place, on the floor, are three figures of knights, rudely cut on slabs of stone, in bas-relief: there is another slab, on which is the carved effigies of a knight, in plated armour, with a pointed helmet and gorget of mail; on his breast is a heart: under an arch in the south wall, on an altar-tomb, is the figure of an emaciated corps, in a shroud¹. In Aylesbury church is the mutilated effigies of a knight, carved in white marble, in plated armour, with a gorget of mail: it was dug up many years

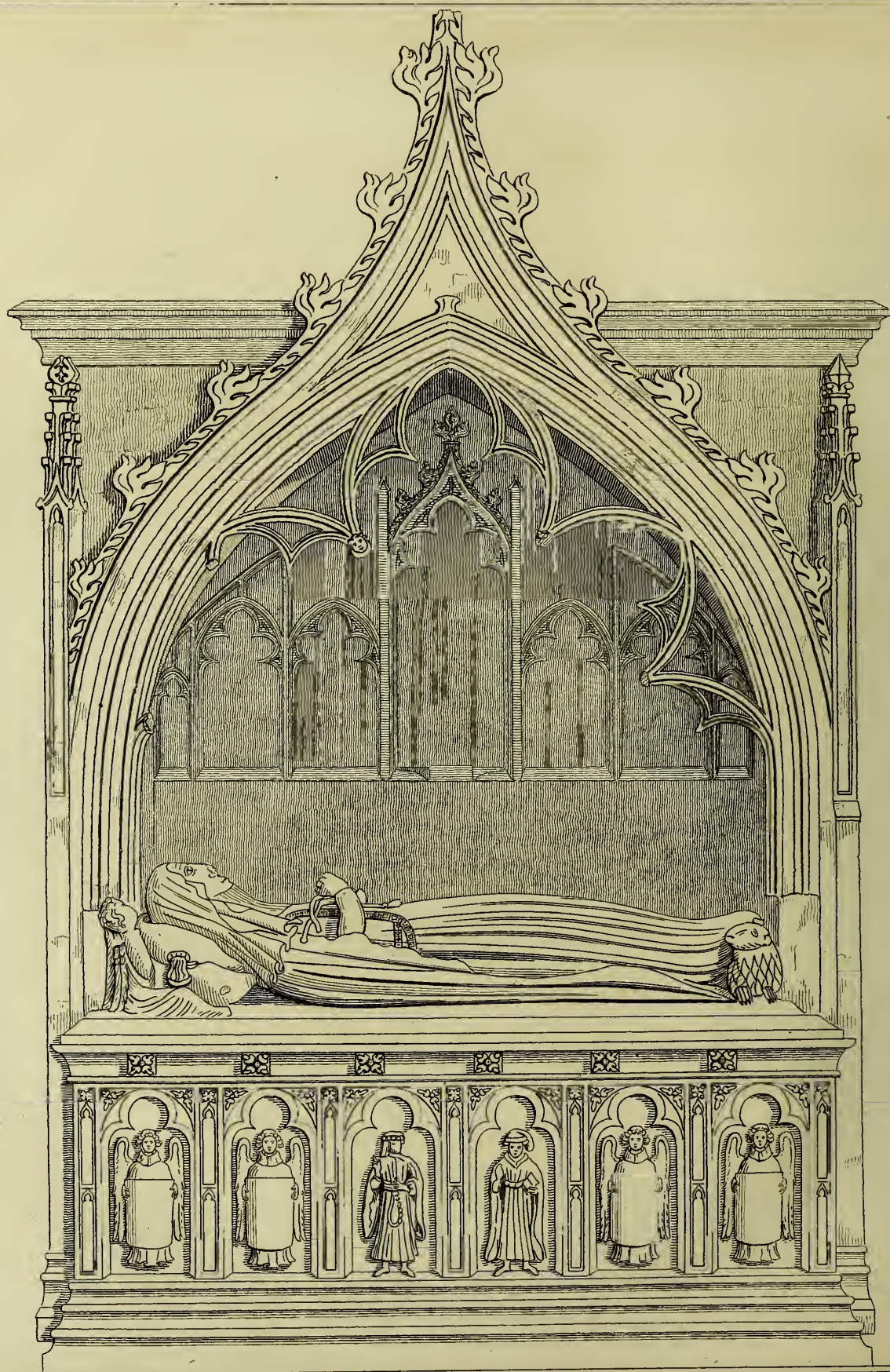
* Bezanty, a Canton ermine.

¹ For a more particular account of these tombs, see Langley's History and Antiquities of the hundred of Desborough, p. 301, where they are all figured.



J. G. Jones del. & sculp.

TWO OF THE STONE STALLS IN MAIDS-MORTON CHURCH, BUCKS.



Styrene del.

J. no. sculpt.

TOMB OF ELIZABETH LADY CLINTON, IN HAVERSHAM CHURCH.

ago in a field near the town, where the church of the Grey Friars formerly stood, and appears, from the arms, to have been intended for one of the Lee family^m. On the north side of the chancel, in Haverham church, is a rich Gothic monument of Elizabeth, Lady Clinton, who died in 1422, having her effigies in alabaster, clothed in a long gown, mantle, and veil, with a lion at her feet, and angels supporting her pillow: the altar part of the tomb is enriched with roses, tracery, and figures; over it is a canopy, ornamented with trefoils, crockets, and pinnacles. In Hoggeston church is the tomb of the founder, much mutilated, having his effigies with the figure of a church in his hand. In Thornton church is the tomb of John Barton, founder of a chantry there, with the effigies of himself and his lady, in alabaster; he died about the year 1443ⁿ.

At Isenhampsted-Cheynes, in the Ruffel chapel, are two ancient figures in stone, supposed to have been for some of the Cheyne family. In the same place are the tombs of the first earl and countess of Bedford, and of Francis, the second earl. In Bletchley church is the monument of Lord Grey, of Wilton, who died in 1442, having his effigies on an altar-tomb. In Drayton-Beauchamp church there is a brass for one of the Cheyne family, dated 1375, perhaps Thomas Cheyne, who was shield-bearer to King Edward III. In Denham church is a brass for Agnes Jordan, last abbess of Syon; and in Ellesborough church, a very large one of Sir John Swynshide, rector, who died in 1390. In Thornton church are brasses of Robert Ingleton, lord of the manor, who died in 1472, and his three wives, under rich Gothic canopies, and a large brass of his granddaughter Jane, who brought Thornton to the Tyrrells; they have all been lately removed from altar-tombs, and placed on the ground. In Clifton-Reynes church is a brass for Sir John Reynes, 1428, and at Stoke-Poges, one of Sir William Molins, who was killed at the siege of Orleans, 1425, and another of Eleanor Lady Molins.

Monastic Remains.—Very small remains are existing of Burnham abbey; and of Medmenham, only the base of a pillar of the church. In Mr. Oldham's greenhouse at Great-Miffenden, there are some groined arches, resting on pillars, with enriched capitals in the latest Saxon style, which seem to have been part of the cloisters of Great-Miffenden abbey. There are considerable remains of Nutley abbey now converted into a farm, they occupy three sides of a quadrangle, on the south side of which is the hall, sixty-eight feet in length, and twenty-three feet nine inches in width, now used as a barn: in the wall, at the east end, is a corbel-table, in the style of the early Gothic, richly ornamented with foliage^o; adjoining to the hall, at the east end, is a passage, with an arched ceiling ten feet wide, the entrance

^m It was supposed by Browne Willis to be the effigies of Sir Robert Lee, who died in 1460.

ⁿ This is the date of his will.

^o See the plate, p. 409, fig. 4.

to which is on the south side of the quadrangle, and has a pointed door-way, the pillars of which have enriched capitals. On the west-side are the buildings of the farm-house, in the style of the latest Gothic; some part was probably erected after the dissolution. There is a chamber, 18 feet by 37, round the cornice of which, the Stafford knot is frequently repeated, with this inscription in black letter ^p, “*en lui plesâc (plesance.)*”

The college of the Bon-hommes, at Ashridge, exhibited a fine specimen of the Gothic architecture of the thirteenth century; the greater part of it was pulled down by the late Duke of Bridgwater, and the materials sold about four years ago: the cloisters were very beautiful; they were built of Toternhoe stone, in which the several ornaments with which they were enriched, appeared to great advantage^q: The walls were painted in fresco, with scripture subjects. The annexed plate may serve to give some idea of the hall, as it appeared when the demolition of the building was going on: its dimensions were 44 feet by 22.

Part of St. Margaret's nunnery is standing, and occupied as a dwelling-house; it does not appear to be of a much earlier date than the dissolution of monasteries.

Castles and Sites of Castles.—There are no remains of the buildings of any ancient castles in this county. Some earth-works point out the site of those which formerly existed at Lavendon and Whitchurch, and that at Castlethorpe, anciently called Hanslope Castle, which was the seat of the Manduits. There are no earth-works remaining to mark the site of Newport-Pagnell Castle.

Ancient Mansion-Houses.—Borftall-house was a castellated mansion^r. The gate-house of the ancient building still remains. Liscombe-house is a very ancient edifice, but the greater part of it has been modernized: the chapel retains its original windows, which are in the style of the early part of the thirteenth century. Thornton-House has been modernized. Gayhurst, which was built in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, has undergone little alteration, excepting the inside, the greatest part of which has been modernized.

Camps and Earth-Works.—On the top of the hill at West-Wycombe are the remains of a circular camp; on the east side there is a double *vallum*, with a deep ditch: in other parts the ditch is shallow. In Mr. Scott's grounds at Danesfield, on

^p See the plate, p. 489, fig. 3.

^q The cloisters by accident were not lotted when the materials were sold, and therefore were not pulled down at the same time with the other parts of the building; but they are considerably damaged by the fall of the adjoining walls.

^r See an engraving of

it in its original state, in Kennet's Parochial Antiquities.



Steyens del. & fecit.

RUINS OF THE HALL OF ASHERIDGE HOUSE.



the banks of the Thames, is an entrenchment, nearly circular, with a double *vallum*, except on the river side, where it was defended by a steep cliff: it is known by the name of Danes-ditch. There is a circular camp near High-Wycombe, at a place called Old or All-Holland^{lands}, above the site of the Roman station in Deffborough field. At Chelmsbury is a circular entrenchment, 289 yards across from east to west, and 207 from north to south, surrounded by a double ditch; and in the adjoining village of Hawridge, the manor-house is built within a circular ancient entrenchment. There are also some large entrenchments at Hedgerley-Dean, and a ditch which runs from thence to East-Burnham. Above the village of Medmenham are the remains of a large camp, nearly square, inclosing about seven acres, with a single *vallum* and ditch. In a wood near Burnham there is an oblong *vallum* and ditch, about 130 paces long, and about 60 wide, called by the country people Harlequin's-moat. Near Ellefborough are some strong earthworks, on the side of the Chiltern hills, at one corner of which is a high circular mount or keep, 80 paces in circumference, called the Castle-hill, or Kimble-Castle, commonly supposed to have been the Castle of Cunobeline. There is a moated site adjoining the farm-house, called the Grove, near a road called the Lower Ikneld-Way, in the parish of Ellefborough; it is of an irregular form, and in most parts about fifty paces across.

A considerable mound of earth, under the common name of Grimesdike, runs nearly east and west through part of this county; it has been traced for some miles, particularly between Wiggington Common in Hertfordshire, and St. Leonard's Common. At Princes-Risborough, adjoining the church-yard, is an entrenchment, being nearly a square of 80 paces, supposed to be the site of the Black Prince's palace.

PAROCHIAL TOPOGRAPHY.

MR. BROWNE WILLIS had made very large collections for a history of this county, but only published that of the town and hundred of Buckingham. His collections for the hundreds of Cotflow and Newport were complete at the time of his death, and had been methodized for publication, by the Rev. Mr. Cole, of King's College, Cambridge: the collections for the southern part of the county are the most deficient. The late Rev. Mr. Langley published, in 1797, the history and antiquities of the hundred of Desborough. In the following brief parochial account, the history of manors, and whatever else is not quoted as from other authorities, is deduced chiefly from Browne Willis's printed history and MS. collections, and from Mr. Langley's history of the hundred of Desborough, which is here generally acknowledged to avoid the frequent repetition of quotation. The more modern information has been collected by a personal visit to every parish in the county, and by inquiries made of the clergy and others; among whom Scrope Bernard esq. of Lower Winchendon, and Edward Hanmer esq. of Stockgrove, merit particular acknowledgment for their kind assistance.

ADDINGTON, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies about two miles north-west of Winslow. The manor was, at the time of the Norman survey, part of the large possessions of Odo, Bishop of Baieux: after his banishment, it seems to have been acquired by the family of Romenel, who before had held it under him, and to have been alienated by them to the Fitz-Bernards. In 1313, it was purchased of the latter by John Blacket^o, who not long afterwards conveyed it to Sir John Molins^p: having passed by female heirs to the families of Hungerford and Hastings, it was sold, in 1532, to the Curzons, and by them, about 1620, to the Busbys. This manor is now the property of the Hon. General Vere Poulett, under the wills of Lady Kemys and her maiden sister, daughters and co-heirs of the Rev. Thos. Busby, who died in 1725; these ladies deceased within a few months of each other, in 1800 and 1801. The manor-house was the seat of the Busbys, of which family

^o See Pat. 6 Edw. II.

^p See Pat. 9 Edw. III.

there are several memorials in the parish church: Sir John Busby, who died in 1700, was colonel of the Buckinghamshire militia. The advowson of the rectory, which was formerly vested in the prior and convent of St. John of Jerusalem, has been annexed to the manor ever since the reformation: the tithes and glebe of this parish were exchanged for certain lands, settled on the rector, by act of parliament, in 1726.

ADSTOCK, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies nearly three miles to the north-west of Winslow, on the north side of the road leading from Aylesbury to Buckingham. The manor of Adstock was given by the Conqueror to his illegitimate son, William Peverell; and on the attainder of William Peverell the younger, was granted by King Henry II. to William Avenell, from whose family it passed by marriage to the Vernons and Bassets: it was afterwards, as Browne Willis supposes, divided into two manors, one of which passed by marriage to the Fortescues. Sir Francis Fortescue sold the demesnes of this estate in the early part of the 17th century, reserving the manor which his son conveyed to Thomas Egerton, rector of Adstock; from his family it passed by purchase to the Verneys. Lord Fermanagh was in possession of this manor in 1735: it is probable that they have been purchased, since Browne Willis's publication, by some proprietor of the other manor, formerly called Hansted manor, in Adstock, which that writer traces from the Bassets, either by purchase or alliance, through the families of Hansted, Newenham, Cope, Smith, Tomlins, and Greaves. The family of Greaves were in possession in 1677; soon after which, it passed by marriage to the Whitehalls. It is now the property of J. C. Turney esq.

The advowson of the rectory of Adstock was given in the reign of Henry II. by William Avenell, to the abbey of Leicester; but about the year 1443, was again (probably in consequence of some exchange) annexed to the manor. Sir John Fortescue, about the year 1635, sold it to Robert Sharrock, rector of Drayton-Passlelew, whose grandson bequeathed it to the Bishop of Lincoln and his successors for ever, recommending them to appoint a resident rector. This parish has been inclosed, by an act of parliament, passed in 1797, when an allotment of land was given to the rector, in lieu of tithes; the parish is described in the act, as consisting of 47 yard lands.

AGMONDESHAM or AMERSHAM, a market town in the hundred and deanery of Burnham, lies on the road to Aylesbury and Buckingham, 26 miles from London. This town is a parliamentary borough by prescription; its right of sending members to parliament, which had been disused more than 400 years, was at length recognized in 1623, through the exertions of William Hakevill esq. of Lincoln's Inn,
who

who was then chosen one of its representatives. Edmund Waller, the poet, who was a native of Colehill in this parish, sat in two of the parliaments of King Charles I. as member for the borough of Amerham: the celebrated Algernon Sydney was one of its representatives in 1679. The right of election is in the Lord's tenants of the borough, paying scot and lot. King John, in the year 1200, granted a market at Agmondesham, on Fridays, to Geoffrey Fitz-Piers, Earl of Essex, and an annual fair on Lady-day^a: the market is now held on Tuesdays; the present fairs are, Whit-Monday, and Sept. 19. The market-house was built by Sir Wm. Drake knt. who died in 1682. According to Browne Willis, there were 400 families in the town, about the middle of the last century: the number of inhabitants in the town and parish, in 1801, according to the returns then made to parliament, was 2130; of these, 959 were males, and 1171 females: the number of persons chiefly employed in agriculture was 232; of those employed in trade, manufactures, and handicraft, 1198.

The manor of Agmondesham (called in the Norman Survey, Elmodesham) was given by William the Conqueror to Geoffrey de Mandeville, and, with other large estates, descended from him to the noble families of Fitz-Piers, Bohun, and Stafford. After the attainder of Edward Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, King Henry VIII. granted this manor to Sir John Russell, ancestor of the Duke of Bedford. In 1665, it was purchased of William, Earl of Bedford, by Sir William Drake knt. and is now the property of Thomas Drake Tyrwhit Drake esq. The family of Drake had been settled in this parish some time before, by the marriage of Francis Drake esq. of East Sheen, in Surrey, one of the gentlemen of the bed-chamber to King James I. (descended from the Drakes, of Ash, in Devonshire,) with Jane, daughter and heir of William Totehill esq. of Shardeloes, in the parish of Amerham. William Drake esq. was created a baronet in 1641, but dying a bachelor in 1669, the title became extinct: he bequeathed his estates in Amerham to his nephew, William Drake esq. afterwards Sir William Drake knt., in whose posterity they still continue.

Shardeloes, the seat of Mr. Drake, stands about a mile from the town. It formerly belonged to the Brudenells, collateral ancestors of the Earl of Cardigan: this branch of the family terminated in a female heir, who brought Shardeloes to the Cheynes. It was afterwards the seat of William Totehill esq. an eminent lawyer in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, who had the honour of entertaining her Majesty at Shardeloes in one of her progresses: Mr. Totehill's daughter married Mr. Drake, as above-mentioned. Among the pictures at Shardeloes is the portrait of a Lord

^a Cart. 2 John.

Chancellor, by Cornelius Janfen, fupposed to be Sir Christopher Hatton. The gardens, much commended for their beauty by the editors of the *Magna Britannia* published in 1720, were formed out of a morafs by Sir William Drake knt.; they were modernized for the late Mr. Drake, by Richmond.

Mr. Drake has three other manors in this parish, called Woodrow, Wood-fide, and Wedon-hill, all of which have been a confiderable time in his family: the manor of Wedon-hill belonged anciently to the family of Wedon, and afterwards to Sir John Cobham, who furrendered it to the crown in the reign of Edward III.^{*}: that monarch granted it, in 1365, to Peter de Brewes:

The manor of Raans, in this parish, takes its name from the ancient family of Raan, from whom it paffed by female heirs to the De la Groves and Brudenells[†]. Druce Brudenell, of Raans, was buried in the north aisle of Amerfham church (which belongs to Raans-houfe) in 1489. Raans was at a later period the property and feat of the Proby's, feveral of whom were buried at Amerfham, but their monuments have been either removed or decayed. Sir Henry Proby, of Raans, whose monument was formerly to be feen in Amerfham church, died in 1662: the manor of Raans was afterwards in the Gower family, and was purchafed of Earl Gower, in 1735, by the Duke of Bedford. It is now, by purchafe from the late duke, the property of Lord George Cavendish. The manor-houfe, an ancient building, is occupied as a farm.

The parifh church was newly pewed, paved, and rendered very commodious at the expence of the late Mr. Drake, who obtained a faculty for that purpofe, in 1778; the galleries were added by the prefent lord of the manor, in 1800. There are feveral monuments of the Drake family in the chancel, and an adjoining maufoleum; among the moft deferving of notice may be mentioned, that of Montagu Gerrard Drake efq. by Scheemaker, and a very handsome monument in memory of the lady of the late Mr. Drake, faid to be by Sir Henry Cheere. In the chancel are monuments of the family of Bent of Leicefterfhire, who had a feat in this parifh, and that of Henry, fon of Sir Patrick Curwen bart. who died in 1638, at the age of 14.

The advowfon of the valuable rectory of Amerfham, to which a manor is annexed, with a Court-Leet and Court-Baron, was purchafed of Sir Richard Minfhull, by Sir William Drake knt. and is now the property of his defcendant, whose brother is the prefent rector. It belonged formerly to the prior and convent of Brecknock, in South Wales, to whom it was given in 1347, by Humphrey Bohun, Earl of Hereford[‡].

The rectory houfe, which is large and commodious, ftands in a beautiful fituation, about a quarter of a mile from the town. The manor of Colefhill, in this

^{*} Pat. 39 Edw. III.

[†] See Collins's Peerage.

[‡] Pat. 21 Edw. III.

parish, which was formerly in the Brudenells, and afterwards in the Wallers, having been the birth-place of Waller the poet, is now annexed to the rectory of Amersham: it was purchased of the Wallers, with a sum of money bequeathed by Mrs. Bent, in 1730, to the rector of Amersham, and his successors, on condition of their preaching four quarterly sermons, previously to the administration of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. The hamlet of *Colehill*, although belonging to this parish, forms an insulated portion of Hertfordshire. The manor of Cooks, described in ancient records as being in the parish of Amersham, partly in Buckinghamshire and partly in Hertfordshire, extends probably into this hamlet. In Queen Elizabeth's time it was in the Windsor family^s; nothing has been learnt of its subsequent proprietors.

Dr. Robert Chaloner, rector of this parish, who died in 1621, founded a grammar-school, endowed it with a salary of 25*l. per annum*, and gave 20*l. per annum* for the maintenance of a divinity lecture at Christ-Church College in Oxford, or for exhibitions for three poor scholars from his school at Amersham. A writing-school was founded in this parish by William Lord Newhaven, who died in 1728, and endowed by him with a rent-charge of 20*l. per annum*. A Sunday-school in this town, originally established by subscription, has been endowed by the late William Drake jun. esq. M. P. Sir William Drake bart. who died in 1669, founded and endowed an alms-house for six poor widows, not under 60 years of age, who receive a weekly stipend of four shillings each, besides clothes and fuel.

John Gregory, author of some learned treatises, among which was one on the ancient custom, in the church of Sarum, of electing a bishop among the choristers, on Innocent's day, was born at Amersham in 1607.

The town of Amersham appears to have been peculiarly exposed to the fury of religious persecution, both in the reign of Henry V. when many of its inhabitants were executed for professing the tenets of the Lollards^h, and in the reign of Queen Maryⁱ.

AKELEY, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies about three miles nearly north of the county town. The manor was given by Walter Giffard, Earl of Buckingham, to the alien priory of Newton-Longueville: having been seized by the crown during the wars with France, it was given by King Henry VI. with other estates of that priory, to the warden and scholars of New College, in Oxford.

The manor of Stockholt, in this parish, belonged successively to the families of Barton, Fowler, and Lambard. Sir Edward Bagot, who married the heiress of the last-mentioned family, sold it to Sir Simon Bennet; from the Bennets it passed

^s Browne Willis.

^h Pat. 1 Hen. V. part 5.

Fox's Acts and Monuments.

by a female heir to the noble family of Cecil, and was purchased of the Marquis of Salisbury, in 1800, by the present proprietor, Lord Carrington.

The advowson of the rectory, which belonged formerly to the priory of Newton-Longueville, is vested in the warden and scholars of New College. This parish, by the name of Akeley *cum* Stockholt, was inclosed, pursuant to an act of parliament passed in 1794, when a corn rent was settled on the rector in lieu of tithes, but the Marquis of Salisbury's estate was exempted from the operation of the act. An allotment was given to the poor in lieu of furze.

ASHENDON, in the hundred of that name, and the deanery of Waddesdon, lies about nine miles west of Aylesbury, and about seven north of Thame in Oxfordshire. The manor has belonged from time immemorial to the Grenville family, and is now the property of the Marquis of Buckingham.

The manor of Great-Policote, in this parish, was anciently in the noble family of Valence, Earls of Pembroke, passed by a female heir to the Talbots, and was afterwards in the Staffords. At a later period it belonged to the family of Palmer, of whom it was purchased by the Grenvilles, and is now the property of the Marquis of Buckingham, who holds the manor, or reputed manor, of Little-Policote in this parish, as lessee under Lincoln College in Oxford. This estate is said to have been given to Lincoln College, before the year 1479^k, by John Bucktot, a priest: the manor-house was a retiring place for the college in the time of the plague.

In the parish church of Ashendon is an ancient figure of a crusader, under a flat arch rudely ornamented with foliage, which tradition calls the tomb of Sir John Bugden, of Policote. Browne Willis says, that the minister told him it was that of John Bucktot, who gave the manor of Little-Policote to Lincoln College; but it is evidently the tomb of a layman, and seems by the chevron on the shield to have been one of the Stafford family, who were anciently Lords of Great Policote.

The great tithes of this parish were given by Walter Giffard, Earl of Buckingham, to the abbey of Nutley. Since the reformation they have been vested in Christ-Church College in Oxford; the Marquis of Buckingham is lessee under the college. The benefice is a donative, in the patronage of the dean and chapter. The parish has been inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1737.

ASTON-ABBOTS, in the hundred of Cotflow, lies about five miles nearly north of Aylesbury. The manor, which had belonged to the abbey of St. Albans, was

^k Bishop Rotheram's statutes, which bear that date, direct mass to be said for John Bucktot, as one of the benefactors to the college.

granted by King Henry VIII. to John Lord Ruffel: not long afterwards it became the property of the Dormer family, from whom it passed by a female heir to the Stanhopes, and is now the property of the Earl of Chesterfield. The manor-house, which is pleasantly situated, was occupied by the late Colonel Freemantle.

This parish is in the peculiar jurisdiction of the Archdeacon of St. Alban's, and in the diocese of London: Lord Chesterfield is patron of the vicarage. The parish has been inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1795, when an allotment of land was assigned to the vicar, in lieu of the vicarial, and a considerable portion of the great tithes to which he was entitled.

Burston-house, in this parish, was the seat of a branch of the Lees: Cromwell Lee, a younger son of Sir Anthony Lee of Burston, compiled a very bulky Italian Dictionary, now in the library of St. John's College in Oxford, of which he was a member; he died in 1601. The old mansion was nearly rebuilt by Sir Henry Lee, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, but left by him in an unfinished state, and has never since been completed: it is occupied as a farm-house, and is now the property of Mr. William Leader, who purchased it, in 1802, of Lord Dillon, the representative of the Lee family.

ASTON-CLINTON, in the hundred of Aylebury and deanery of Wendover, lies four miles east of Aylebury, on the road to London through Tring. The principal manor of this place was the property of Edward de Salisbury, who was standard-bearer to King Henry I. In 1217, King Henry III. gave it to Sir William de Farendon¹: it was afterwards in the Bassets. King Edward I. granted this manor to the Montacutes, ancestors of the Earls of Salisbury, from whom it descended to their representative, the unfortunate Margaret Countess of Salisbury, beheaded by King Henry VIII. in 1541. In Queen Mary's reign it was in the family of Hastings, and has since passed by marriage to the Barringtons, Gerards, and Lakes: it is now the property of General Gerard Lake, who, for his great services as commander in chief of his Majesty's forces in the East Indies, was, in 1804, created Lord Lake, of Aston-Clinton. There appears to have been another manor in Aston-Clinton, which was successively in the families of Audeley, Grey, Brocas, St. Cler, and Grange^m; it seems to have been united to the other manor before 1541, when the Countess of Salisbury died, seized of the manors of Aston-Clinton and Aston-Cherry. This manor is called, in the list of game-keepers' deputations for the year 1803, Aston-Clinton, otherwise *Chivery*. The manor, or reputed manor of Dundridge, in this parish, was purchased in 1748, of the heir of J. M.

¹ Pat. 1 Hen. III.

^m See Esch. Edw. III. Ric. II. Hen. IV. and Hen. VI.

Baldwin esq. in whose family it had been for a considerable time, by the father of Edward Darell esq. the present proprietor. The advowson of the rectory was sold by the Gerards, to the principal and scholars of Jesus College in Oxford, in 1727.

At *St. Leonards*, a hamlet of this parish, which lies about four miles distant from the mother church, is an ancient chapel, supposed to have been formerly a chantry chapel to the abbey of Missenden. In this chapel is the monument of General Cornelius Wood, a distinguished officer in the reign of Queen Anne, who died in 1712: it is ornamented with a bust of the general, in white marble, surrounded with military trophies. This chapel is endowed with an estate, vested in ten trustees, who have the appointment of the minister.

ASTON-SANDFORD, in the hundred of Ashendon and deanery of Waddeston, lies about six miles south-west of Aylesbury, and about five north-east of Thame in Oxfordshire. This parish took its distinguishing name from the family of Sandford, who were proprietors of the manor in the 13th century, and brought it in marriage, with other estates, to the Veres, Earls of Oxford. It was purchased of Edward, Earl of Oxford, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, by Sir William Fleetwood, and continued in his descendants till about the year 1737: in 1745 it was the property of Charles Price esq. and has since passed through several hands. The present proprietor is Mr. Barber of Cheapside, in London, who is also patron of the rectory.

ASTWOOD, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies six miles north-east of Newport-Pagnell, on the road to Bedford. The manor descended from the Paganells, who possessed it immediately after the conquest, to the Somerys, Suttons, and Botetorts; being afterwards divided, one moiety became the property of the Rokeleys, and (being called the manor of Rokeleys, or Church-end) passed to the families of Alban, Ingelton, Tyrrell, and Chibnall. It was sold by the latter in 1667, to trustees, for the use of John Thurloe, formerly Cromwell's secretary, then by attainder rendered incapable of acquiring or possessing any estate in his own name in England. Thurloe's daughter brought it in marriage to Francis Brace, attorney-at-law, whose son was the proprietor in 1735: it is now the property of Robert Trevor esq. The other moiety of the manor constituting the estate, called the manor of Astwood-Bury, passed from the Botetorts to the Lords Zouche, of Harringworth, and afterwards to the families of Hardwood and Norwood. Tyingham Norwood esq. whose ancestor acquired this manor by purchase, in the year 1540, sold it about the year 1620, to Samuel Cranmer esq. a collateral descendant of the archbishop. Sir Cæsar Cranmer, and Mr. Brace, are both described by
the

the editors of the *Magna Britannia*, published in 1720, as having seats at Aftwood. The manor of Aftwood-Bury is now the property of William Lowndes Stone esq. whose grandfather, William Lowndes esq. purchased it before the year 1752. The old mansion at Aftwood-Bury, described by Browne Willis as one of the finest old seats in the county, (and said to have been built by one of the Lords Zouche,) was pulled down in 1799.

In the church are memorials of the families of Cranmer and Lowndes; among the latter is the monument of William Lowndes esq. auditor of the Exchequer, who died in 1775: he was son of Mr. Lowndes, secretary to the Treasury: the great tithes of this parish, which were given by the founder of Tickford priory to that monastery, are now the property of Mr. Trevor: the vicarage is in the gift of the crown.

AYLESBURY, in the hundred of that name, and in the deanery of Wendover, is one of the principal towns in the county: it is distant from London about forty miles by way of Uxbridge and Amerlham, and thirty-nine by way of Tring and Berkhamsted.

Aylebury is a very ancient town, said to be one of the strongest garrisons of the Britons, and to have been taken by Cuthwulf, in 571ⁿ: its name does not occur again in history till the civil war of the 17th century: it was then an important garrison of the parliament during the years 1644 and 1645^o, but it does not appear to have sustained any siege from the royal army.

A religious house is said to have been founded at Aylebury, in memory of St. Osith, daughter of Fredewald, a Pagan king, who was born at Quarendon, and beheaded by two Danish pirates in 600: this house did not exist at the time of the dissolution of monasteries: it is mentioned by Leland, who says, on the authority of record, that it was of the Trinitarian order. There was also, at Aylebury, a house of Grey-Friars, at the south end of the town, founded by James, Earl of Ormond, in 1387: their revenues were valued at 3l. 2s. 5d. *per annum* only, in the reign of Henry VIII. Dr. London, one of the visitors of monasteries, in his letter to Lord Cromwell, says, "I find them at Aylebury very poor, and in debt^p." The site of the convent of the Grey-Friars was granted by King
Henry

ⁿ Sax. Chron.
Chronicle, 75.

^o Clarendon's History of the Rebellion, 8vo. edit. II. 493, and Heath's

^p The following is a copy of the surrender of their house, by which it seems, that they shewed little reluctance in complying with their monarch's will, and relinquishing a monastic life: "Forasmooche as wee, the warden & freers of the house of Saynte Frauncis of Ailesburie, comonly calld the Grey-Freers in Aylesburie, in the countie of Buckingham, do profoundly consider, that the perfection of
Christian

Henry VIII. to Sir John Baldwin, lord chief justice of the Common Pleas, and became his country-seat: it was afterwards a seat of the Pakingtons, till the time of the great civil war, during which it sustained so much injury from the parliamentary army in garrison at Aylesbury, that it was never afterwards inhabited by the family.

Aylesbury became a borough town by a charter of Queen Mary, in 1554: it was at the same time made a corporation, consisting of a bailiff, ten aldermen, and twelve capital burgeses, in whom the right of electing two representatives in parliament was vested; but Aylesbury did not long continue to be a corporate town, the powers of this charter expiring not many years after the date of the grant, in consequence of the corporation neglecting to fill up the vacancies caused by death: the right of election was from that time vested in the inhabitants paying scot and lot, till the month of June, 1804, when, in consequence of the notorious bribery and corruption which had been practised in the borough, at the time of the preceding general election, an act of parliament passed, by which, as the means of preventing such practices in future, the right of electing the members for this borough was vested in the freeholders of the three hundreds of Aylesbury, jointly with such persons as had before a right to vote by the customs of the borough. The constables of the manor of Aylesbury, and the prebendal manor by whom the town is at present governed, are still the returning officers. During the *interregnum* this borough was represented by Scot and Mayne, two of the regicides.

Christian livinge dothe notte conciste in dome ceremonies, waringe of a grei cootte, disgefinge ourself after straunge fassions, dokyng, & bekyng, in gurdyng ourselves wyth a gurdle, full of knotts, and other like papistical ceremonies, wherein wee have ben moost principally practised & miset in times paste, butt the verie true waye to please Godd, & to live a true Christen man, withoute all ypocrisie & fayned diffimulation, is sincerely declarid unto us by our Master Christe, his evangelists & apostolls, being mynded hereafter to folowe the same, conforming ourselfe unto the will & pleasure of our Supreme Hedde under Godd in erthe, the Kynges Majestie, & notte to folowe henseforth the superstitious tradicions of oni forincicall potentat or poore; with mutual assent & consent do submit ourselves unto the merci of our saide Soverayne Lorde, & wyth like mutual assent & consent do surrendre & yelde up into the handes of the same, all our seide howse of Sainte Frauncis in Ailesburie, comonly callid the Grey-Freers, in Ailesburie, with all lands, tenements, &c. and most humbly beseeching his moost noble grace to dispose of us, & of the same, as best shall stonde wyth his most gracious pleasure; & furthur freely to graunte unto every on of us his licence, under wretynge and scealle, to chaunge or abytt into secular fassion, & to receve such maner of livinge as other secular priests comonly be preferred into. And we all faithfully shall pray unto Almightye Godde longe to preserve his most noble Grace wyth increase of moch felicitie and honor; & in witnes of all & singular the premises, wee the said warden & covent of the Grey-Freers in Ailesburie, to these presents have putt our covent sceall the first day of October, in the thirtyth yere of the rayne of our most Soverayne Lord, King Henry the Eighth.—Per me Henricum Martyne, Gardianum, per me Gulielmum May, Vice Gardianum;” and five others.

The

The town of Aylesbury has had, from time immemorial, a considerable market, the tolls of which were valued, in King Edward the Confessor's time, at 25*l.* *per annum*, and at the time of the Norman survey at 10*l.* The present market, which is on Saturday, is held under a charter of Queen Elizabeth, bearing date 1579: a market on Wednesday, granted by Queen Mary's charter, has been disused: King John granted this town a fair on St. Oswald's day: Queen Mary's charter grants two fairs; one at the Annunciation, the other on Holy-Rood day: Queen Elizabeth's charter confirms the fair on Holy-Rood day, and grants another on the eve of Palm-Sunday. There are now six annual fairs, January 20, March 24, May 8, June 14, September 25, and October 12.

The old town-hall, which stands in the middle of the market-place, was built at the expence of Chief Justice Baldwin, in the reign of King Henry VIII.; the king gave the timber. The assizes were removed to Aylesbury, at the instance of the lord chief justice, and a county gaol was built there. It must be observed, however, that the assizes were not from this time constantly held at Aylesbury, but for several years, in the reigns of Queen Elizabeth and King James I. wholly at Little-Brickhill^a, now reduced to a small village. Since the year 1758, the Lent Assizes only have been held at Aylesbury, and the Summer Assizes at Buckingham. The act of parliament for building the present gaol and town-hall bears date 1737: the town-hall has been lately much improved, and the access to the courts rendered more commodious. Browne Willis seems to have considerably over-rated the population of this town, by calculating the number of its inhabitants, about 50 years ago, at 4000: their number, according to the returns made to parliament under the population act, in 1801, was then only 2605.

The manor of Aylesbury was anciently parcel of the demesne land of the crown: King John gave it to Geoffrey Fitz-Piers, Earl of Essex, from whose family it passed successively, by female heirs, to the Botelers, or Butlers, afterwards Earls of Ormond, and the Boleynes. Thomas Boleyn, Earl of Wilts, father of Queen Anne Boleyn, sold it to Sir John Baldwin, lord chief justice of the Common Pleas, whose daughter brought it in marriage to Robert Pakington, one of the representatives in parliament for the city of London, who was barbarously murdered in 1537, on account of his known zeal for the reformed religion: his only son, Thomas, who was knighted by Queen Mary, was buried at Aylesbury, with great pomp, in 1571. Sir John Pakington, the grandson (son of Thomas), was a distinguished character in the court of Queen Elizabeth, a great favourite with her Majesty, and very popular in the country: he built a noble mansion at Westwood, in Worcestershire, which was his principal residence; but he lived occasionally at Aylesbury, where he enter-

^a See the account of that parish.

tained King James and his Queen, attended by a very numerous retinue, with unusual magnificence^r. Upon his son's marriage, Sir John Pakington gave him his house at Aylesbury^s: about the same time (in 1620) he procured him to be made a baronet, he being then only 20 years of age: in 1623 the baronet was elected one of the representatives for this borough, but died the next year: in the entry of his burial in the parish register, he is called "Sir John Pakington, knt. and bart. the hopes of Aylesbury:" his father died in 1625, and was also buried at Aylesbury. During the civil war Sir John Pakington, the grandson, was under the necessity of conveying the manor, market, and other estates at Aylesbury, to Scot, the regicide, and others, as trustees for the use of the town: at the restoration he recovered his property, but the house, which had sustained much injury during the war, was never again made habitable: his descendants continued to possess the manor, market, &c. till the year 1801, when they were sold by the present Sir John Pakington, of Westwood, to the Marquis of Buckingham.

The manor of Broughton-Hollands, alias Staveley, partly in this parish, was for many generations in the Pakingtons, and is now the property of the Marquis of Buckingham.

The ancient family of Aylesbury, who took their name from this town, held a considerable estate here, which passed afterwards by marriage to the Chaworths, by the service of finding straw for the king's bed, and to strew his chamber; and three eels, when he should come to Aylesbury in winter; and when he should visit it in summer, straw for his bed, grafs for his chamber, and two green geese; but these services were not to be claimed more than three times in the year, in case the king's visits should be more frequent.

The parish church is a large and handsome Gothic structure, but contains little that is remarkable: there is a monument in memory of Sir Henry Lee's lady, who died in 1584; and an effigies, in white marble, dug up some years ago in the ruins of the church of the Grey-Friars, and supposed by Browne Willis to be that of Sir Robert Lee, who died in 1460: the arms on the surcoat are a fesse, between three leopards' faces. In the chancel are tablets in memory of Sir Francis Bernard bart. governor of Massachusetts-Bay, who died in 1779, and his lady.

The rectory of Aylesbury forms a prebendal corps in the church of Lincoln: this estate was held on lives by the family of Mead, from whom it passed by marriage to the celebrated John Wilkes, alderman of London, who represented the borough in parliament, and resided in the rectory-house adjoining the church, an old mansion which he partly rebuilt, and which was afterwards in the occupation of Sir Francis Bernard. Mr. Wilkes sold his interest in this estate to Sir William Lee:

^r Kimber's Baronetage.

^s This house was on the site of the Grey Friars. See p. 502.

the fee-simple of it was purchased under the act of parliament for the redemption of the land-tax, by Robert Browne esq. who has since sold the prebendal manor to the Marquis of Buckingham: the vicarage is in the gift of the prebendary. The manor of *Walton*, (a hamlet in this parish, where was formerly a chapel,) constituted the corps of another prebend in the church of Lincoln, called the prebend of Heydor *cum* Walton. The lease of this prebend, which had been for many years in Lord Melbourn's family, is now vested in Lord Carrington, who purchased it, a few years ago, of Mr. Rickford, of Aylesbury. The hamlet of Walton was inclosed by act of parliament in 1799: the township and liberties of Aylesbury had been inclosed, pursuant to an act of parliament passed in 1770: allotments of land were assigned under both acts to the impropiator and vicar, in lieu of tithes.

There were two ancient hospitals in Aylesbury, dedicated to St. John and St. Leonard, founded by certain burgessees of the town, for the support of lepers and other poor: they had both gone to decay before 1360, as appears by a record of that date².

Lord Chief Justice Baldwin was a great benefactor to this town, by making causeys, and improving the roads in its immediate vicinity. John Bedford had before (anno 1494) conferred a more lasting benefit, by giving lands to the town, which now produce at least 300*l. per annum*, for the repair of highways, and the relief of the poor: an act of parliament for settling the lands thus given by John Bedford, passed in the year 1586. Mr. Henry Philips, in the year 1714, built a grammar-school in this town, and gave for its endowment the sum of 5000*l.* with which was purchased the manor of Broughton-Abbots, in the neighbouring parish of Bierton: the salary of the master, which is discretionary, is now about 60*l. per annum*.

There is no manufacture carried on in this town, excepting that of lace. There are meeting-houses for the presbyterians, anabaptists, quakers, and methodists.

BARTON-HARTSHORNE, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, is a small village, lying about four miles south-west of the county town: there were anciently two manors in this parish, which belonged to the monasteries of Ofeney and Chetwode: the manor, which had belonged to the monks of Ofeney, was granted by King Henry VIII. to John Wellesborne, passed by purchase to the Paxtons, in 1570, and from them by female heirs to the families of Butterfield and Southam. Since the publication of Browne Willis's history of the hundred of Buckingham, it has been divided into severalties. The other manor, after the surrender of the priory of Chetwode, was granted by King Henry VIII. to William Risley, whose

² Dugdale's Monasticon, II. 396.

descendant,

descendant, Paul Risley esq. was the proprietor in the year 1735: it is now in the family of Bowles, who have possessed it ever since the year 1759, if not before: the rectory, together with the advowson of the benefice, which is a donative or curacy, has been always annexed to this manor.

BEACONSFIELD, a small market town in the hundred and deanery of Burnham, is distant about 23 miles from London, on the road to Oxford through High-Wycombe: the market day is Wednesday, but the market is almost wholly discontinued, the neighbouring towns of Wycombe and Uxbridge having drawn away most of the business: there is a fair on Old Candlemas day, and another on Holy Thursday. Browne Willis calculated the number of inhabitants, about 50 years ago, at 550: their number, in 1801, according to the returns made under the Population Act, was 1149.

The manor of Beaconsfield was anciently an estate of the Windsors, and afterwards became the property of Burnham-Abbey: it now belongs to Edmund Waller esq. of Farmington, in Gloucestershire, in whose family it has been for many years: their ancestor, Edmund Waller, the celebrated poet, was proprietor of this manor and that of Hall-Barns, and resided at Hall-Barns, the ancient family seat, now in the occupation of Mr. Maxwell: among the pictures at this mansion is a portrait of the poet, painted when he was 23 years of age; another, which is supposed to have been intended for him at a more advanced age; and a portrait of a lady, said to be that of Sacharissa, the favourite subject of his muse. Edmund Waller was born, as before mentioned, at Colehill, in the parish of Amer sham, and lies buried in the church-yard at Beaconsfield, where is a monument to his memory, with the following inscription: "*Heus Viator, tumulatum vides Edmundum Waller, qui tanti nominis poeta, et idem avitis opibus inter primos spectabilis, musis se dedit & patriæ. Nondum octodecenarius, inter ardua regni tractantes, sedem habuit à burgo de Amer sham missus. Hic vitæ cursus, nec oneri defuit senex, vixitque semper populo charus, principibus in deliciis, admiratione omnibus. Hic conditur, tumulo sub eodem, rarâ virtute & multâ prole nobilis uxor Maria ex Bressyorum familiâ, cum Edmundo Waller conjugè charissimo, quem ter & decies lætum fecit patrem 5 filiis & filiabus 8 quos mundo dedit & cælum rediit.*"

"*Edmundi Waller hic jacet id quantum morti cessit; qui inter poetas sui temporis facile princeps, lauream quem meruit adolescens octogenarius haud abdicavit. Huic debet patria lingua, quod credas, si Græcè Latinèque intermitterent musæ loqui, amarent Anglicè. Hoc marmore Edmundo Waller, Mariæque ex secundis nuptiis conjugî, pientissimis parentibus, pientissimè parentavit Edmundus filius. Honores benè merentibus extremos dedit quos ipse fugit E. L. W. I. F. III. G. ex Testamento H. M. P. mensè Julii, 1700.*"

“ Edmundus Waller, cui hoc Marmor sacrum est, Colshill nascendi locum habuit, Cantabrigiam studendi, patrem Robertum, ex Hamdenâ stirpe matrem. Cœpit vivere 3^o Martii A. D. 1605. Prima Uxor Anna Edwardi Banks filia unica & hæres; ex primâ his pater factus, ex secundâ tredecies, cui & duo lustra superstes, Obiit 21 Octob. A. D. 1687.”

Gregories, in this parish, which belonged also to the Wallers, has of late years acquired much celebrity, as the seat of Edmund Burke; who, for critical taste and brilliancy of language, will ever be ranked in the first class of English writers; whose manners were so engaging, whose conversation talents were so fascinating, that his company was eagerly sought after by all who could make pretensions to kindred genius; and Gregories was the frequent resort of the most eminent literary and political characters of the age. Mr. Burke died at Gregories, (which is now the seat of his widow) in 1797, and was buried in Beaconsfield church, where a marble tablet has been put up with this short inscription to his memory:—“ Near this place lies interred all that was mortal of the Right Honourable Edmund Burke, who died on the 9th of July, 1797, aged 68 years.” The inscription records also his only son, Richard Burke, who represented the borough of Malton in parliament, and his brother, Richard Burke, recorder of Bristol: they both died in the year 1794.

Wilton-park, in this parish, was for many years a seat of the family of Basill, now of James Dupré esq.

In the parish church are several memorials of the Wallers of Gregories: in a chapel, on the south side of the chancel, is an ancient altar-tomb for one of the Bullstrode family. The advowson of the rectory was purchased by the president and scholars of Magdalen College, in Oxford, about the year 1705.

BECHAMPTON, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies about six miles north-east of the county town, and about three miles south-west of Stony-Stratford. The manor passed either by purchase or inheritance, through the families of Fitz-Richard, Bechampton, Wolf, Edy, Foster and Pigott. Thomas Pigott sold it, about the year 1609, to Sir Thomas Bennet, Lord Mayor of London. Sir Simon Bennet, his son, whose principal residence was at Bechampton, was created a baronet in 1627: this Sir Simon was a great benefactor to the poor, and to University College in Oxford: the title became extinct at his death, which happened in 1631. The manor of Bechampton, after having been possessed by his nephew, descended by a female heir to the noble family of Cecil, and is now the property of the Marquis of Salisbury. The remains of the mansion, which was the seat of the Bennets, have been converted into a farm-house; the great hall is standing.

In the parish church are some monuments of the Bennet family, among which is that of Sir Simon Bennet, put up by Univerfity College more than 100 years after his death: it was erected not long after the publication of Browne Willis's history of the hundred of Buckingham, in which, the intention of the college is mentioned, and much blame imputed to them for having delayed it fo long.

The rectory of Bechampton was formerly in moieties; the patronage of one of thefe was given by Robert Fitz-Neale to the priory of Luffield, in 1329^a; the other was in the lord of the manor: in 1470 they were united, on condition of alternate prefentation. Since the reformation, the advowfon has been wholly in the lords of the manor.

Mr. William Elmer, who died in 1652, by his will, bearing date 1648, founded a free grammar-school in this parish. The fchool-houfe, built out of the profits of the eftate, was finifhed in 1667. By the founder's will, the mafter muft be a fingle man, and refide at the fchool-houfe; the fchool is endowed with lands, (now let at 43*l. per annum*,) charged with the payment of 40*s. per annum* each, to eight poor men, and 20*s. per annum* each to eight poor women; three of the men, and as many of the women, muft be inhabitants of Bechampton. Mr. Elmer gave alfo 5*l. per annum* to apprentice a child, and fome lands for the relief of the poor, the repair of highways, &c.

BIDDLESDON, or BITTLESDEN, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies about fix miles north-weft of the county town, on the borders of Northamptonfhire. The manor was in the reign of Henry I. the property of Robert de Meppershall, who is faid by Camden to have forfeited it, for ftealing one of the king's hounds; but other writers fay, that it was forfeited as an efcheat to the Earl of Leicefter, as his lord paramount. The fact, as ftated in the original record, printed in Dugdale's Monafticon, appears to be, that Robert de Meppershall having been fued in the King's Court, for ftealing a dog, gave this manor to Geffrey de Clinton, the king's chamberlain, to befriend him in the fuit; but having married fome time afterwards a relation of the chamberlain's, it was given back to him. After this, going to refide at his native place, Meppershall, in Bedfordfhire, he neglected to pay the fervices due to the Earl of Leicefter (as his lord paramount) for the manor of Biddlefdon, whereupon the earl feized the manor into his own hands, and gave it to Ernald de Bosco, his fteward. De Bosco, being fearful that he fhould be obliged at fome future period to reftore it, gave it, with the Earl of Leicefter's permiffion, to the monks of Gerendon, in Leicefterfhire, to the intent

^a Dugdale's Monafticon.

that they might found a convent of the Cistercian order at Biddleston, which was done accordingly, in the year 1147. The revenues of their monastery were valued in the reign of Henry VIII. at 125l. 4s. 4d. *per annum*. After the reformation, its site was granted, together with the manor, to Thomas Lord Wriothesley: this estate soon afterwards passed by purchase to the Peckhams: having been seized by Queen Elizabeth, in satisfaction for a debt due to the crown, she gave it to Arthur Lord Grey, on the attainder of whose son, in 1603, it reverted to the crown, and was granted in 1614 to Sir George Villiers, afterwards Duke of Buckingham. George Villiers, the second and last duke of that name, sold it in 1681 to Mr. Sayer, of whose family it was purchased by Earl Verney. Biddleston-house, which was for a time one of Lord Verney's seats, is now the residence of George Morgan esq. late of Abercothy, in the county of Carmarthen, who, jointly with his brother, Dr. Morgan, prebendary of Gloucester, purchased the estate in the year 1791, of Lady Fermanagh, niece of the late Earl Verney.

Browne Willis, in his history of the hundred of Buckingham, tells us, that in 1712, there were considerable remains of the abbey and conventual church; part of the east side of the cloisters, part of a tower, a small chapel, and the chapter-house, a handsome room, about forty feet square, with a vaulted roof, supported by four pillars: in the chapel was a monument of one of the Lords Zouch. The same author also mentions the tombs of Thomas Billing, Lord Chief Justice of the Court of Common-Pleas, who died in 1481; one of the Lovett family, and some others. All traces of the abbey had been so entirely destroyed by Mr. Sayer, before the publication of Mr. Willis's work, that he had not left any thing that could indicate the site of an ancient building. A modern chapel, built by Mr. Sayer, adjoining the house, serves as the parish church. Mr. Morgan is impropriator of the great tithes, and patron of the benefice, which is a donative or curacy.

The abbot and convent had, in 1315, a charter for a weekly market, at Biddleston, on Mondays, and a fair on the festival of St. Margaret: it is now a very small village. At *Everfaw*, in this parish, was formerly a chapel, dedicated to St. Nicholas.

BIERTON, or BURTON, in the hundred of Aylesbury and deanery of Wendover, lies about a mile and a half north-east of the town of Aylesbury: Sir John Pakington had a manor in this parish, which has been, from time immemorial, an appendage to that of Aylesbury, and was purchased with it in 1801, by the Marquis of Buckingham. Another manor, called from a family who possessed it in the reign of Edward II. Bierton-Stonors, with Wandesford, is also the property of the

Marquis of Buckingham. A third manor has always passed with that of Hulcot, and is now the property of John Baker esq.

The dean and chapter of Lincoln are patrons of the vicarage, which is in their peculiar jurisdiction. Sir George Lee is lessee of the rectory, under the dean and chapter.

In this parish is a large hamlet, called *Broughton*. The manor of Broughton formerly belonged to the Lords Lovell and Holland, and, at an earlier period, probably to the family of Staveley, it being called the manor of Broughton-Staveley, otherwise Broughton-Hollands. It has been of late years in the Pakingtons, and was sold by Sir John Pakington, in 1801, to the Marquis of Buckingham. The manor of Broughton-Abbotts, which extends into the parish of Hulcot, belongs to the trustees of the grammar-school at Aylesbury.

The parishes of Bierton and Hulcot have been inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1779, when allotments of land were assigned in lieu of the rectorial and vicarial tithes. Rent charges were allotted in lieu of the tithes of the Aylesbury school inclosure, and an allotment of land was given to the poor as a compensation for their rights.

BLECHLEY, or BLETCHLEY, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies about a mile and a half to the south-west of Fenny-Stratford. Walter Giffard, Earl of Buckingham, possessed by grant from William Rufus the whole landed property of this parish, which was inherited by Richard de Clare, Earl of Hertford, who married his granddaughter Roesia. Helena, daughter of the Earl of Hertford, brought it in marriage to John de Grey, whose great grandson, Reginald, bequeathed the manor of Over or Church-Bletchley, with those of Water-Eaton and Water-Hall, both in this parish, to his eldest son, John Lord Grey, of Wilton, and the manor of West or Old Bletchley, to his younger son Roger, who became Lord Grey of Ruthin. The manor of Water-Eaton was held by the service of keeping a falcon, for flight, for the king's use; and for the charges of keeping it, the lord was entitled, on the day that he carried it to court, to a horse with its equipage, the king's table, with the tressels and table-cloth, all the vessels with which the king was served on that day, and a cask of wine, as soon as the king had tasted it. The manor of Water-Hall was held by the service of finding a man on a horse without a saddle, a bow without a string, and an arrow without a head^b. The descendants of Lord Grey, of Wilton, continued to possess these manors, and that of Church-Bletchley, above 400 years, until the attainder of Thomas Lord Grey, in 1603.

^b Blount's Tenures.

King James granted them, in 1606, to George Villiers, afterwards Duke of Buckingham. In Oliver Cromwell's time they were sold, as confiscated lands, to Sir Philip Skippon. George Villiers, the younger, Duke of Buckingham, recovered them at the restoration, and, in 1674, sold them to Dr. Thomas Willis, a very eminent physician, grandfather of Mr. Browne Willis, the celebrated antiquary. The other manor (West Bletchley) was purchased of Henry Grey, Earl of Kent, by Catherine, Duchess Dowager of Buckingham, whose son, the second duke, having sold it to Dr. Willis, all the manors became again united.

The Lords Grey, of Wilton, had in ancient times a seat at Water-Eaton, and another at Water-Hall, both long ago destroyed. Browne Willis, in 1711, built a house for his own residence at Water-Hall, which has been lately pulled down by its present owner, Mr. Harrison. Browne Willis's grandson, the late John Willis Fleming esq.^c sold the manors of Bletchley, Water-Eaton, and Fenny-Stratford, (which is also in this parish,) to the Rev. Philip Barton, of Great Brickhill, and they are now the property of his devisee, Ph. Duncombe Pauncefort esq.

The parish church, a handsome Gothic structure, was repaired and ornamented at the expence of Mr. Browne Willis, who added the pinnacles to the tower, re-cast the bells, and gave a new font. The internal decorations, on which he expended a large sum, but ill accord with the style of the building; the altar-piece, and the screen between the nave and chancel, are Græcian, and the pillars painted to resemble veined marble. It appears by a book of memorandums, bequeathed by Mr. Willis to the rectors of Bletchley, that he expended in the whole, 1346l. on the repairs and ornaments of the church, to which he was induced, he says, by the circumstance of his father and mother having been there interred, esteeming it a greater act of piety, and as great a respect to their memory, as if he had erected a costly monument over their remains. Mr. Willis made it his solemn request to the future rectors of Bletchley, that they would, out of remembrance to his many benefactions to the parish, either preach an annual sermon themselves, or cause it to be preached by their curates, on the 8th of September, being the anniversary of the dedication of the church, exhorting the parishioners in what manner they ought to celebrate the wake or feast, as had been done by his cousin, Mr. Archdeacon Benson, then rector (afterwards Bishop of Gloucester,) and his predecessor, Dr. Wells.

In the chancel at Bletchley is a remarkable tablet, in memory of Dr. Sparke, rector of the parish, who died in 1616, with his portrait very neatly engraved on copper, and extremely well preserved, being inclosed within a wooden case. It seems

^c He was the son of his eldest son, Thomas Willis esq. of Water-Hall, and took the name of Fleming.

by the style to have been the work of Dr. Haydock, the same artist who engraved the portrait of Erasmus Williams, (a contemporary of Dr. Sparke's,) in Tingewick church. There is a remarkable monument also, in memory of Mr. Edward Tayler, and his wife Faith, with their portraits (full faces) sketched in white on black marble, and ornamented with various devices. The inscription is very quaint, with anagrams, &c. There are memorials on flat stones for Mr. Browne Willis's father and mother, and others of his family. In the north aisle is a monument for his wife, a bad imitation of an ancient altar-tomb: it appears by the inscription, that both Mrs. Willis and himself were descended from the ancient lords of the manor of Bletchley, whose arms are placed round the aisle, painted on wooden tablets: in this aisle also is the tomb of Richard Lord Grey, who died in 1442, at Water-Hall; the effigies of the deceased was repaired and re-cut, by Weston the statuary, at Mr. Willis's expence.

William Cole, the Cambridge antiquary, was rector of Bletchley from 1753 to 1767: the rectory is in the patronage of John Willis esq. to whom the advowson was bequeathed, with other property, by his cousin, the late John Willis Fleming esq.

Fenny-Stratford, a small decayed market-town, situated on the road to Liverpool, (the ancient Watling-Street,) 45 miles from London, stands partly in the parish of Bletchley, and partly in that of Simpson. The chapel, which is in Bletchley, having been dilapidated ever since the reign of Queen Elizabeth, was rebuilt by subscriptions, procured by the exertions of Mr. Browne Willis. The first stone was laid by Mr. Willis, in 1724, on St. Martin's day, and the chapel was dedicated by him to that saint, for a reason which strongly indicates that whimsical disposition for which he was remarkable, because his grandfather died on St. Martin's-day, in St. Martin's lane^d.

The

^d When the chapel was finished, he caused an engraved portrait of his grandfather to be hung up at the entrance, with the following lines:

“ In honour of thy memory, blessed shade,
Was the foundation of this chapel laid,
Purchased by thee, thy son, and present heir
Owe these three manors to thy art and care;
For this may all thy race thanks ever pay,
And yearly celebrate St. Martin's day.”

The chapel was consecrated on the 27th of May, 1730, upon which occasion Mr. Willis addressed his diocesan in the following speech:

The ceiling of Fenny-Stratford chapel is adorned with numerous coats of arms, being those of the nobility and gentry who subscribed towards the building. Within the rails of the communion table lie the remains of the celebrated antiquary, who may justly be considered as the founder. On his tomb is the following inscription:—*Hic situs est Browne Willis, antiquarius, cujus cl. avi æternæ memoriæ Tho. Willis archiatri totius Europæ celeberrimi, defuncti die Sancti Martini A. D. 1675, hæc capella exiguum monumentum est: Obiit 5^o die Feb. A. D. 1760, Ætatis suæ 78. O Christe, foter, & Jdex, huic peccatorum primo, misericors & propitius esto.*” Mr. Willis’s corpse was attended to the place of interment, at his own request, by the corporation of Buckingham, to which town he had ever borne a singular affection. By his will, he bequeaths a benefaction for a sermon in this chapel on St. Martin’s day, and he requests that the rector of Bletchley may never have the cure of Fenny-Stratford; but he directs that if the rector will contribute 6*l. per annum* towards his salary, he shall have the appointment of the curate, and he requests his heirs to augment the curacy: it does not appear that this has ever been done; nor has the rector acquired the patronage of the chapel, which still belongs to Mr. Willis’s family. To the manuscript collections, as well as to the printed work of Mr. Willis, we have been much indebted in our brief notices of this county. His printed

“ Right Reverend Father in God,

“ I humbly beg leave to present to your Lordship the state of the town of Stratford, in the county of Buckingham: It had formerly a handsome spacious chapel, consisting of two or three aisles, with an embattled tower, in which were four bells. In this chapel, which was in the parish of Bletchley, were visitations frequently held for the archdeaconry of Buckingham; but this being sacrilegiously demolished, to the great detriment of the inhabitants of the said town of Stratford, they have been for many years destitute of a place for divine worship, and necessitated to come above a mile and a quarter to church, by reason of which unhappy circumstances, elderly and infirm people have been prevented from hearing divine service and sermons, while the younger sort have made it a pretence to frequent no worship at all, and others have resorted to schismatical teachers, and separated themselves from the communion of our most excellent Church: all which has tended to the scandal of religion in general, and the profanation of the Lord’s day in particular. To put a stop to these bad consequences, and take away so just a reproach, (having purchased the ground whereon our former chapel stood,) we have, through the liberality of several noble and generous benefactors, at length been enabled to erect and finish a decent chapel, and to inclose a cemetery; and in order to provide for a minister to officiate therein, we have endowed it in some measure ourselves, being thereunto excited by the encouragement given us in obtaining the bounty of our late excellent Queen Anne; and having thus prepared matters, by the assistance of our worthy rector, Mr. Archdeacon, Dr. Martin Benson, we are now become earnest petitioners to your Lordship, that this structure so erected and established, with the cemetery adjoining, may, by your sacred office and ministry, be separated from common and profane uses, and appropriated to the worship of Almighty God, who has, of his great mercy and goodness, thus restored to us the place of old dedicated to his honour, and put it into the hearts of his servants to rebuild it.”

work

work contains only the history of the town and hundred of Buckingham, but he had made large collections towards a history of the whole county, now in the Bodleian Library at Oxford. These collections have been found extremely useful, particularly in tracing the history of landed property, a department of topography in which he evinces much industry and skill. His church notes are chiefly valuable, as recording many monumental inscriptions, which have since his time been either removed or obliterated. In taste he was certainly deficient, for he passes over without mention the most beautiful specimens of ancient architecture, while he dwells with minuteness on the dimensions of the buildings, the number of bells, their inscriptions, &c.

Fenny-Stratford had from time immemorial a market on Mondays, which was confirmed by charter in 1609: during the civil war it was discontinued, but revived after the restoration. In 1665, this small town was much depopulated by the plague, of which 139 persons died; the inns were shut up, and the road turned for a while into another direction*: this misfortune proved also fatal to the market, which has never flourished since, and has now been many years wholly discontinued. John de Grey, in 1269, procured a grant of a fair to last seven days, at the festival of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary; the charter of 1609 grants a fair to be held on the 7th, 8th, and 9th of April, and another on Michaelmas-day: there are now four annual fairs, April 19th, July 18th, Oct. 11, and Nov. 28: the fair on the 19th of April is chiefly for barren cows; that of Oct. 11, chiefly for hiring servants.

There was anciently a gild or fraternity at Fenny-Stratford, dedicated to St. Margaret and St. Catharine, which was founded in 1494, by Roger and John Hebbes. It consisted of an alderman, two wardens, and an indefinite number of brethren and sisters: the Brotherhood-house is now the Bull-Inn: the Swan at this town was an inn bearing the same name in 1474.

The hamlet of Fenny-Stratford was inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1790: the lands were not exonerated from tithes.

BLEDLow, in the hundred of Aylesbury and deanery of Wendover, lies on the borders of Oxfordshire, about six miles south-east of Thame. The manor of this place, which belonged formerly to the alien priory of Okeborne, was given by King Henry VI. to John, Duke of Bedford, and, after his death, to the provost and fellows of Eton College, under whom it has been for some time held on lease,

* MS. Collections by the Rev. William Cole, the Cambridge antiquary, (who was rector of Bletchley,) now in the British Museum.

by the family of Badcock. The Rev. Benjamin Anderfon, and Thomas Spiers esq. give a deputation for an estate, called the manor of Bledlow, late Corhams.

In the parish church, which is of the earliest Gothic architecture, are memorials of the family of Croffe, who had a seat here, and held the rectorial manor under the provost and fellows of Eton College, to whom the rectory, which had belonged before to the abbey of Grestein, in Normandy, was appropriated in 1444. The vicarage is in the patronage of Lord Carrington, who has lately purchased the lease of the rectorial manor, (to which a part of the impropriation is annexed,) and the advowson, of Mr. Whitbread. The latter bought this estate of the Haytons, who inherited by female descent from the family of Croffe.

Bledlow church stands near the edge of a rock, under which, in a deep glen overgrown with trees, and exhibiting some picturesque scenery, little to be expected from the character of the neighbouring country, issue some transparent springs, which form there a pond called the Lyde. They are said to wear away the rock, which has occasioned the following local proverb :

“ They who live and do abide
Shall see Bledlow Church fall into the Lyde.”

BORSTALL, in the hundred of Ashendon and deanery of Wendover, lies about nine miles north-west of Thame, in Oxfordshire, and about 13 miles west of Aylesbury. Tradition says, that the site of this manor was given by King Edward the Confessor to one Nigel, for his services in slaying a wild boar, which infested the forest of Bernwood, to be held by cornage, or the service of a horn ; and that the mansion built by him on this land was called Boar-stall, in memory of the slain boar. It appears from an inquisition taken in the year 1265, that Sir John Fitz-Nigel or Fitz-Neale then held a hide of arable land, called the Dere-hide, at Borstall, and a wood, called Hull-Wood, by grand serjeanty, as keeper of the forest of Bernwood ; that their ancestors had possessed these lands, and this office, before the conquest, and held them by the service of a horn, as the charter of the said forest ; that they had been unjustly withheld by the family of Lifures, of whom William Fitz-Nigel, father of Sir John, had been obliged to purchase them^f. It appears that, about three years before the date of this inquisition, Borstall-house was the property of William Belet^g. It is certain that the manor of Borstall passed by marriage from the Fitz-Neales to the family of Handlo. John de Handlo had the king's licence to fortify his mansion at Borstall, in 1312. In 1327 he was sum-

^f Kennet's Parochial Antiquities, p. 265.

^g Pat. 48 Hen. III. m. 16.

moned to parliament as a baron. From his descendants the manor of Borstall passed by heirs female to the families of De la Pole, James, Rede, Denham, Banistre, Lewis, and Aubrey. The present proprietor is Sir John Aubrey bart. whose family have been in possession more than a century. It is remarkable that this manor has passed, without alienation or forfeiture, through a succession of female heirs, from a period prior to the conquest. Sir John Aubrey has in his possession a very ancient horn, supposed to be the same by which this manor was originally held by the Fitz-Neales. The horn, which is thought to be that of a buffalo, is of a dark brown colour, variegated and veined like tortoise-shell. It is two feet four inches in length, on the convex bend, the diameter of the larger end is three inches; at each end it is tipped with silver, gilt, and has a wreath of leather, by which it is hung about the neck. This horn has been figured in the third volume of the *Archæologia*. Bernwood was disforested in the reign of James I.

Borstall-house was one of King Charles's garrisons, in 1644, and perhaps at an earlier period of the civil war. It appears that in the Spring of that year, it having been thought useless to retain possession of some of the lesser garrisons, this house (among others) was evacuated, and the fortifications destroyed. No sooner was this done, than the parliamentary garrison at Aylesbury, which had experienced much inconvenience from the excursions of their neighbours at Borstall, took possession, and soon became as great a nuisance to the king's garrison at Oxford, as the former garrison at Borstall had been to them, by seizing provisions and obstructing the intercourse between Oxford and the neighbouring country. The ill policy of having evacuated this garrison being now apparent, Col. Gage undertook to reduce it, and succeeded; with little resistance he got possession of the church and out-works, and then commenced so heavy a fire with his cannon against the house, that the besieged shortly surrendered it: Sir Edward Walker says, that lady Denham, the owner, conscious of her disaffection, stole away in disguise^b. Col. Gage left a garrison there, which nearly supported itself by depredations in Buckinghamshire, particularly in the neighbourhood of Aylesburyⁱ. In May 1645, General Skippon attacked Borstall-house, and afterwards Fairfax himself, but both failed in the attempt. The next year Fairfax was more successful, and it was surrendered to him on the 10th of June, after a siege of 18 hours, by the governor, Sir Charles Campion, who was afterwards slain at Colchester^k. All that now remains of this house is a large gateway, with turrets at the corners, sufficiently

^b Historical Discourses, p. 26.

ⁱ See Clarendon's History of the Rebellion, 8vo. Vol. II.

p. 493, 494.

^k Heath's Chronicle, p. 111.

spacious to have been occasionally the residence of Sir John Aubrey's family, whose chief seat in this county is at the neighbouring village of Dourton.

Borftall was formerly a chapel to Oakley: it was made parochial in 1418; an annual acknowledgment of two shillings is still paid to the mother-church. The church of Borftall, which was nearly demolished in the civil war, was repaired by Lady Denham: it contains nothing remarkable. The great tithes of this parish were given, by the Empress Maud, to the monks of St. Frideswide, in Oxford: the impropriation is now vested in Sir John Aubrey, who is patron of the vicarage.

At Borftall is a large field, called poor-folks pasture, given by King William III. in 1699, to the parishes of Brill and Oakley; it now produces a rent of 110*l. per annum* to Brill, and 75*l. per annum* to Oakley.—*Arrengrove* is a hamlet of this parish.

BRADENHAM, in the hundred of Deiborough and deanery of Wycombe, lies about four miles north-west of High-Wycombe. The manor belonged in the 13th century to the Earls of Warwick: towards the end of that century it came into the possession of the Bradenham, (who took their name from the village,) and was afterwards successively in the families of Falwesley, Wiltshire, Botiler, and Scot. After this, Bradenham was for many years a seat of the noble family of Windsor, having been purchased in 1500 by Sir Andrews Windsor, who was, in 1529, created Lord Windsor of Bradenham. In 1566 Queen Elizabeth, being on her return from the university of Oxford, was most sumptuously entertained at Bradenham, by Edward, Lord Windsor, whose kinsman, Miles Windsor, spoke an oration on the occasion, which was highly commended by her majesty. This Lord Windsor, by his last will, directed a hospital to be founded at Bradenham, for six poor men, the rector of Bradenham to be the master, and to have 20 marks a-year as an augmentation to his living; and he requested that letters patent might be procured to incorporate the said rector and poor men, by the name of the master and brethren of the hospital of Bradenham. His executors seem altogether to have neglected their trust, as far as related to the foundation of this hospital, which never took place. About the year 1640, Bradenham became the seat of Sir Edmund Pye bart. who purchased the manor of the Windsor family. Sir Edmund left issue two daughters, the elder of whom married John Lord Lovelace, whose daughter and heir (being also the representative of the Wentworth family, and Baroness Wentworth in her own right) married Sir Henry Johnson, and died without issue in 1745,

when this, and other estates, devolved to the present Viscount Wentworth¹, who in 1787 sold it to John Hicks esq. Bradenham-House was built by William Lord Windsor, the second of that title, but it has not much the appearance of antiquity, having undergone several alterations : it has lately been let by Mr. Hicks, together with the manor and demesne lands, on a lease of 21 years, to Peregrine Dealtry esq. The parish church contains nothing worthy of note, excepting the tomb of Joanna Mitchen, who died at the age of 103. A chapel on the north side of the chancel was built by William Lord Windsor, in 1542, as appears by an inscription round the cornice of the ceiling ; in this chapel is a monument for Elizabeth, younger daughter of Sir Edmund Pye, and her husband, the Hon. Charles West, who died without issue. The advowson of the rectory has been always attached to the manor. Catherine Lady Pye left lands for the purpose of educating poor children of this and some other parishes in Buckinghamshire.

BRADWELL, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies about three miles to the east of Stony-Stratford. The manor was given in 1165, by King Henry II. to the family of Keynes, from whom it passed by female heirs to the Ayleburys and Staffords : Sir Humphrey Stafford sold it in 1570 to Michael Coles, who soon afterwards conveyed it to Roger Fuller. From Mr. Fuller's family it passed by marriage to that of Mercer, and is now the property of William Bailey esq. who purchased it of the Mercers.

In the parish church is a monument for Sir Joseph Alston, of Bradwell Abbey, (in the adjoining parish of Wolverton,) who died in 1688 : an ancient inscription, between the nave and chancel, shews that the church was dedicated to St. Lawrence. The church of Bradwell was given, in 1275, to the priory of Tickford ; the vicarage, which has been endowed with the great tithes, is now in the gift of the crown. This parish has been enclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1788 : the lands were not exonerated from tithes.

BRAYFIELD, or COLD-BRAYFIELD, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies on the borders of Bedfordshire, about three miles east of Olney. The manor belonged anciently to the Blossomvilles, and afterwards to the Staffords. In Queen Elizabeth's reign it was in the Mordaunts ; Henry Mordaunt, Earl of Peterborough, sold it about 1669 to the Boddingtons, from whom it passed by marriage to the Dymocks. It was purchased of the latter by the Farrers, about the year 1714. William Farrer esq. of Brayfield, who died in 1737, was many years chairman of the

¹ As descended from Sir William Noel, who married Margaret, elder daughter of the first Lord Lovelace, by Lady Anne Wentworth.

committee of ways and means, in the House of Commons. The manor of Brayfield is now the property of Farrer Grove Spurgeon Farrer esq. son of the Rev. Mr. Spurgeon, by a daughter of the late Mr. Farrer. Brayfield-house is at present in the occupation of R. Orlebar esq.

Brayfield has a parochial chapel, dependant on the church of Lavendon: both parishes have been inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1801, when allotments of land were assigned to Mr. F. G. S. Farrer, as impropiator of the great tithes, which belonged formerly to the priory of Harold. Gerard Noel esq. nephew of the late Earl of Gainsborough, is patron of the donative of Brayfield.

BOW-BRICKHILL, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies about two miles nearly east of Fenny-Stratford. The manor was anciently in the Giffards, Earls of Buckingham, afterwards successively in the families of Cauz, Fermband, and Stafford: about the year 1520, it belonged to the family of Watson, from whom it passed, in 1626, to Sir Francis Brown; Sir William Boreman died seized of it in 1697; it has since passed through several hands, and is now the property of the Duke of Bedford, having been purchased by the late duke of Francis Moore esq. in the year 1792.

The parish church stands in a very exposed situation, at the edge of a steep hill, and is a very conspicuous object, seen at the distance of many miles: there is no house near it; the village lies on the side of the hill, about a quarter of a mile lower down. The church was for many years suffered to go to decay, being reduced to a mere shell; during which time, divine service was performed at a school-house in the village, which was built by the Perrot family, and endowed by them in 1633. The church was repaired by Mr. Browne Willis the antiquary^m, in 1757, since which time divine service has been performed in it as formerly. The advowson of the rectory, which had till then been always annexed to the manor, was sold to Sir William Ashton, about the year 1630: Sir William Buck (descended by a female heir from the Ashtons) was patron in 1757; the advowson is now the property of the Rev. Dr. Dupré, of Great-Berkhamsted. This parish has been inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1790, when an allotment of land was assigned to the rector in lieu of tithes.

GREAT-BRICKHILL, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies about two miles and a half to the south-east of Fenny-Stratford. The manor was anciently in the Beauchamps, from whom it passed by female heirs to the Baffets and Greys. Richard Grey, Earl of Kent, sold it in 1514 to Sir Charles Somerfet, of whose son,

^m Cole's MSS. in the British Museum.

Sir George, it was purchased in 1549, by the Duncombes: from this family it passed, by female heirs, to the Bartons and Paunceforts, and is now the property of Philip Duncombe Pauncefort esq.

The manor of Smewnes-Grange, in this parish, became the property of Woburn Abbey, in the year 1293. King Edward VI. granted it to Edward Stanton esq. of whose descendant it was purchased in 1792, (under an act of parliament which had passed the preceding year,) by the present proprietor, Edward Hanmer esq. of Stockgrove. This manor extends into the parish of Soulbury: the manor-house, which was built by Edward Stanton, the grantee, within a moated site near the Ousel, has long been suffered to go to decay.

In the parish church are memorials of the families of Duncombe, Barton, Pauncefort, and Chase. The advowson of the rectory is annexed to the manor. This parish was inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1776, when an allotment of land was assigned to the rector, in lieu of tithes, and an allotment to the poor in lieu of their right of cutting furze.

LITTLE-BRICKHILL, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, is nearly two miles distant from Fenny-Stratford, on the road from London to Liverpool. This village, although distinguished by the name of Little, has been a place of much more consequence, if not more populous, than Great-Brickhill; having been formerly a market, and an assize town. The market, which was on Thursdays, seems to have been originally granted in 1228, to John de Gatesdon, confirmed in 1267, to Philip Lovel; in 1319, to Humphrey Lord Audley, and in 1441, to Humphrey Stafford, Earl of Buckingham. The charter of 1228 grants a fair for three days, at the festival of St. Mary Magdalen; that of 1267, a fair for three days, at the festival of St. Giles; that of 1319, a fair at the decollation of St. John the Baptist; and that of 1441, two fairs, one on the festival of St. Philip and St. James, the other on that of St. Luke: the only fair now held, is on the 18th of October. The assizes for the county appear to have been occasionally held at this town, from an early period. During the reign of Queen Elizabeth; and King James I. Little-Brickhill seems to have been considered as the assize town, and is so called in Saxton's map, published in 1574. Between the years 1561 and 1620, the names of 42 executed criminals appear among the burials in the parish register: the last time the assizes were held at Little-Brickhill was in 1638. The gallows is said to have been on the heath, about three furlongs out of the town, on the road to Woburn. The market of Little-Brickhill has been long discontinued; it is probable that the town fell to decay on the assizes being removed: of late years, however, it has again increased in population. Browne Willis states the number

of houses, in 1758, to have been 69; their number in 1801, as returned to parliament, was 84, of which four were uninhabited, that of the inhabitants, 385. Little-Brickhill is still a post town, being the stage between Woburn and Stony-Stratford.

The manor of Little-Brickhill was anciently in the Giffards, Earls of Buckingham, from whom it passed by female heirs to the Lovells, Audleys, and Staffords. Having been seized by the crown, in consequence of an attainder, it was granted to Lord Marney, and afterwards to William Carey esq. Mr. Carey's son sold it to the Brocas family, from whom it passed by purchase to the Abdys, about the year 1636: Sir Anthony Abdy, about the year 1696, sold it to Sir Charles Duncombe, in whose family it continued many years: it is now the property of George Henry Rose esq.

A chapel adjoining the parish church was blown down by the high wind in 1703. The great tithes, which were appropriated to the abbey of Combeval, in Kent, are now annexed to the see of Canterbury, under which Mr. Philip Mills is, or was lately, lessee. The archbishop is patron of the benefice, which is a perpetual curacy. This parish has been inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1796, when allotments of land were assigned in lieu of tithes, and an allotment to the poor for fuel.

BRILL, in the hundred of Ashendon and deanery of Waddeston, lies about seven miles to the north-east of Thame, in Oxfordshire, and about twelve miles west of Aylesbury. The manor was part of the ancient demesnes of the crown, and it is said with much apparent probability, that the Saxon kings had a palace here, which was a favourite residence of King Edward the confessor. It is certain that our monarchs had a palace at Brill for some time after the conquest: King Henry II. kept his court there in 1160, attended by Thomas a Becket as his chancellor; he was there again with his court in 1162^a. King John, in 1203, gave the manor of Brill to his chaplain, Walter Borstard, appointing him keeper of the royal palace there^o. King Henry III. kept his court at Brill in 1224^p: Hugh de Neville had livery of the manor in 1226. In 1233, Brill appears to have been the property of Richard, Earl of Cornwall, for we are told by Matthew Paris, that his lands and houses there were at that time laid waste by Richard Sward and other exiles^q. In 1346, the manor of Brill was granted to Sir John Molins, from whom it descended by female heirs to the families of Hungerford and Hastings; the Earl of Huntingdon sold it in the year 1550, to Edmund Rede esq. lord of

^a Kennet's Parochial Antiquities.

^o Ibid.

^p Ibid.

^q Mat. Paris, p. 332.

the manor of Borstall, from whom it descended, together with that manor, to the present proprietor, Sir John Aubrey bart.

In the month of November 1642, the war having commenced between King Charles and his parliament, the king established a garrison at Brill, of which Sir Gilbert Gerard was made governor: not long after this, an attack was made on the garrison, by a party of the parliamentary army, under the command of Hampden, the celebrated patriot, but they were repulsed with considerable loss¹. About the month of April 1643, after the capture of Reading, Brill was evacuated by the royal garrison, which had been a great annoyance to the parliament, by its frequent excursions to Aylesbury and its neighbourhood².

The great tithes of Brill, which had been appropriated to the convent of St. Frideswide³, in Oxford, are now vested in Sir John Aubrey, who is patron of the perpetual curacy. Brill was formerly a chapel of ease to Oakley: it is now a separate parish, but pays an acknowledgment of two shillings yearly to Oakley, as having been the mother-church. There was anciently an hermitage at Brill, dedicated to St. Werburgh: which was given by King Henry III. in 1252, with an endowment of land to the canons of Chetwode, on condition of their finding a chaplain to officiate in the chapel of the hermitage, and another to officiate in the chapel of the king's palace at Brill⁴.

A fair at this place, which was granted to Sir John Molins in 1346, is still held (though it scarcely deserves the name of a fair) on the Wednesday after Old Michaelmas-day.

BROUGHTON, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies three miles from Newport-Pagnell, on the road to London. The manor was held under the heirs of Hugh de Bolebec, as early as the year 1200, by a family who took their name from the village. William Pawlet, Lord St. John, who married one of the co-heiresses of John Broughton esq. sold it in 1572 to the Duncombes, of whom it was purchased in 1746, by Barnabas Backwell esq. It is now the property of his representative, William Praed esq.

In the parish church are memorials of the families of Broughton, Duncombe, and Chester. The advowson of the rectory has always been annexed to the manor. A yearly payment was allotted to the rector in lieu of tithes, by an act of parliament which passed in 1748.

¹ Clarendon's History of the Rebellion, 8vo. Edit. II. 166, and Heath's Chronicle. ² Vicars's Parliamentary Chronicle. ³ The chapel of Brill, and the great tithes, were given to the monks of St. Frideswide, both by King Stephen and the Empress Maud. — Kennet. ⁴ Kennet.

BUCKINGHAM, which gives name to the county, as well as to the hundred and deanery in which it is situated, is about 57 miles distant from London: it is surrounded, excepting on the north, by the river Ouse, over which it has three bridges. At a very early period this town became a place of much celebrity, as containing the bones of Rumbald, an infant saint, the son of a Saxon king, (born in the neighbouring village of Kings-Sutton,) who died three days old, and was canonized in an age of blind superstition. A shrine was erected at Buckingham, over his remains, which became the resort of a great multitude of pilgrims, to the no small advantage of the town. St. Rumbald's shrine was rebuilt with a sum of money bequeathed for that purpose, by Richard Fowler, chancellor of the duchy of Lancaster in 1477.

Ralph Higden says that the Danes made fortresses on both sides of the Ouse at Buckingham, in 913^x; other authors, on the contrary, speak of these fortresses as having been made by King Edward the elder, who remained with his army at Buckingham for four weeks, some say in 912, others in 915, and others in 918^y. Browne Willis, in his history of Buckingham, says (but on the authority of what ancient historian does not appear) that the Danes committed great outrages at Buckingham in 941, and that in 1010, after having plundered the neighbourhood, they possessed themselves of the town as a place of great strength.

In the month of June 1644, Buckingham was for a few days the head quarters of King Charles I. the neighbouring towns of Aylesbury and Newport-Pagnell being at the same time garrisoned for the parliament^z. Sir William Waller was at Buckingham with his army after the fight at Cropredy-Bridge^a. Fairfax marched thither after his repulse at Borstall-House in May 1645^b.

Buckingham suffered greatly by a fire, which broke out on the 15th of March 1725, and consumed 138 dwelling-houses, being more than one third of the whole town: the damage was computed at 40,000*l*.

It is supposed from the circumstance of King Edward III. having fixed one of the staples for wool at Buckingham, that it was in his reign a flourishing town. It is certain that upon the removal of the staples to Calais, this was one of the towns for whose relief (as having fallen to decay) an act of parliament was obtained in 1535. Buckingham was nevertheless considered as the county town; there is evidence that the public gaol was there in 1545, and Browne Willis supposes it to have been on the site of the old castle: it is probable that the assizes had been generally held at Buckingham, before Lord Chief Justice Baldwin procured them

^x Gale's Hist. Ang. Scrip. III. 261.

^y Bromton, and Saxon Chron. See the Introduction.

^z Clarendon's History of the Rebellion, 8vo. edit. II. 496, and Walker's Historical Discourses, p. 28.

^a Lord Clarendon II. 501.

^b Ibid. II. 655.

to be removed to Aylesbury, although it appears that they were occasionally held at Little-Brickhill, so early as the 15th century. In 1758, Lord Cobham procured an act of parliament to fix the summer assizes at Buckingham, and built a gaol there at his own expence for the use of the town and county; the Town-hall had been built many years before, (about the year 1685,) at the expence of Sir Ralph Verney: it is a large brick building, at the top of which is a gilt swan, the cognizance of the town.

Buckingham is an ancient borough, and is described as such at the time of the Norman Survey, in which it is said to have had 26 burghesses, all under the protection of foreign lords. It does not appear, nevertheless, that the town sent members to parliament before the year 1544: the right of election is in the bailiff and burghesses. Browne Willis, the antiquary, was chosen one of the representatives for this borough in 1705, and Dr. Radcliffe, the celebrated physician, in 1713.

The town of Buckingham was governed in the reign of Edward III. by a mayor and two bailiffs, in that of Henry VIII. by a bailiff and burghesses, but they were not incorporated till the year 1553, when Queen Mary, as a reward for their steady adherence to her in the Duke of Northumberland's rebellion, granted them a charter of incorporation by the style of bailiff, principal burghesses, and steward. King Charles II. gave them a new charter, changing the style of the corporation to that of mayor, aldermen, and steward. This charter had been acted upon only four years, when the old establishment was revived, and the corporation still continue to act under their former charter. There are four incorporated companies in Buckingham, the Mercers, Tanners, Butchers, and Merchant-Tailors: such as are made freemen of the town must be members of one of these companies.

Buckingham has had a large market on Saturdays, from time immemorial: the charter does not appear on record. There are now ten fairs, Jan. 12th and 30th, March 6th, May 6th, Thursday in Whitfun-week, July 10, Sept. 4, Oct. 2, Saturday after Oct. 11, and Nov. 8.—It appears by Mr. Willis's account, that there were 387 houses in the town of Buckingham, when the fire happened there in 1725. According to the returns made to parliament under the population act in 1801, there were then only 229 houses (of which four were uninhabited) in the town, exclusive of 97 in Prebend-end, and 217 in the hamlets of Boreton, Boreton-hold, Gawcot, and Lenborough. The total number of inhabitants in the parish was 2605; of these, 1180 were males, 1425 females; 194 were employed chiefly in agriculture, and 313 in trade, manufactures, or handicraft.

The manor of Buckingham was anciently in the noble family of Giffard. Walter Giffard, the second Earl of Buckingham, died without issue in 1164, when his lands being divided among his sisters' heirs, this manor passed successively to the

families of Clare and Breose: it is supposed to have been sold before the year 1323, to Hugh Audley, whose daughter brought it in marriage to the Staffords: Humphrey Stafford was created Duke of Buckingham in 1445. The manor of Buckingham having been forfeited by attainder in 1460, was granted to Richard Fowler, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster; in 1485 it was restored to the Staffords. It was again forfeited in 1521, when Edward Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, was beheaded on Tower-hill: after this, the manor of Buckingham was granted successively to Lord Marney, and to the Careys: Henry Carey, Lord Hunston, sold it in 1553, to the Brocas family, by whom, in 1574, Browne Willis tells us that it was granted on lease (together with the tolls of the markets and fairs) for a term of 999 years, to the corporation of the town, subject to a quit-rent of forty shillings^c, now paid to the Marquis of Buckingham, who is considered as the Lord Paramount.

It is supposed that the castle, which occupied the site of the present church, was anciently a seat of the Giffards, Earls of Buckingham. Camden observes that the great banks of the castle, of which there were scarcely any other remains, divided the town almost in half: a part of the county gaol which stood on its site remained in Browne Willis's time, divided into tenements for poor people. In 1670 a bowling-green was made on the castle-hill, much resorted to by the gentlemen of the county. Mr. Willis says, that the polls for knights of the shire was taken on this hill, and he had heard that the assizes were formerly held there in booths put up for the purpose. All traces of the castle and its banks are now destroyed, the ground having been levelled when the church was built.

The manor of *Boreton* or *Bourton*, a hamlet of Buckingham, was held, with the manor of Buckingham, by the Giffards, and passed with it to the family of Brocas, of whom it is supposed to have been purchased by Ferdinando Poulton, an eminent lawyer, well known as editor of a book of statutes. Mr. Poulton resided many years in a capital mansion, which had been a seat of the families of Frome, Barton, Fowler, Lambard, and More: his son conveyed Bourton to Sir Richard Minshull, who suffered great persecution for his loyalty in the civil war, his estates being sequestered, and his house plundered of valuables to the amount of 2000l. Sir Richard's son dissipated the greater part of what remained of his father's fortune, and died in the king's bench; this manor was sold to the Verney family: Andrew

* See his History of Buckingham. In his Notitia Parliamentaria, he says that the manor of Buckingham was granted in fee to Babington, and by him sold to Sir Peter Temple, under whose family it has since been held on lease by the corporation. We learn by inquiry, that the other account is the more correct, but that the term of the lease granted to the corporation, was 2000, instead of 999 years.

Douglas esq. the present proprietor, purchased it a few years ago of the trustees of the late Earl Verney.

The manor of *Lethenborough* or *Lenborough*, another hamlet belonging to this parish, passed with the manor of Buckingham till the attainder of the unfortunate Edward Stafford, in 1521, after which it continued in the crown till the early part of the following century. About the year 1611, it became the property of the Dormers: in 1704 it was sold to Mr. Rogers, who in 1718 conveyed it to Edward Gibbon esq. of Putney, in Surrey, grandfather of the historian, of whose family it was purchased by the late Bridger Goodrich esq. and is now vested in his trustees.

Lenborough house, in 1445, became a seat of the Ingoldsbys, an ancient Lincolnshire family. John Ingoldsby of this place was made one of the Barons of the Exchequer in 1463. Sir Richard Ingoldsby, about the year 1617, inclosed the park at Lenborough; his son, Sir Richard, married Oliver Cromwell's aunt, by whom he had a numerous family, all born at Lenborough-House. Their history is very remarkable; Francis the eldest son represented the town of Buckingham in parliament, during the protectorate of his cousins, Oliver and Richard. After the restoration he was well received at court, and his name inserted in the list of intended knights of the royal oak. His estate which was then valued at 1000*l. per annum* he soon dissipated, disparked the ground which his grandfather had inclosed, sold Lenborough House to Mr. Robinson, his steward, and died a pensioner in the Charter-House. Richard, the second son, was an officer of much note and trust in the parliamentary army. He was one of the commissioners of the High Court of Justice for the trial of his sovereign, signed the warrant for his execution, was one of the chief confidants of his cousin Oliver, governor of Oxford Castle, and one of the lords of the upper house. When he found the cause of his cousin Richard desperate, he strenuously exerted himself in promoting the restoration of the exiled monarch, and so effectually recommended himself to his favour, that he not only procured his pardon, being the only one of the regicides who had a free pardon, but was made a Knight of the Bath. He died in 1685, and was buried at Hartwell, near Aylebury. Sir Oliver Ingoldsby, the next brother, who was also a distinguished officer in the parliamentary army, was slain at Pendennis Castle. John, the next brother, had the command of a regiment in the parliamentary army. Henry, the fifth son, who was also of rank in the army, rendered great services to his relations, the Cromwells, and, like his brother Richard, was equally zealous in paving the way for future favour with the exiled monarch, whose restoration he foresaw: with this view he hastened from Ireland, where he had a command, took possession of Windsor Castle, then in the hands of the republicans, and garrisoned it for the parliament, who appeared to be favourably disposed towards the restoration of monarchy. For this service he was created a baronet in 1661, being described as of Lethenborough

borough (or Lenborough,) then the seat of his elder brother Francis. He had been advanced to the same rank by his cousin Oliver, not long before his death in 1658. Sir Henry Ingoldsbys died in 1701, being one of the oldest officers in the service. The title is extinct. There were three other brothers, who are all supposed to have been in the parliamentary army, in which one of them is known to have lost his life. Lenborough-House, the seat of the Ingoldsbys, was sold by the Robinsons to Mr. Rogers, who conveyed it with the manor to Edward Gibbon esq. A great part of it has been pulled down, the remainder is fitted up as a farm-house.

A capital mansion in the town of Buckingham, called Fowlers and Lambards, was the seat of John Barton, who in the reigns of Richard II. and Henry IV. was one of the knights of the shire. It came by marriage to the Fowlers, a family of considerable property and consequence in the 15th and 16th centuries. At this house, Edward Fowler, in 1514, entertained Henry the Eighth's first Queen, Catharine of Arragon, who received there the joyful news of the defeat of the Scottish army at Flodden-field: in 1592 this house passed by purchase to the Lambards: in 1644, being then in the occupation of Sir Edward Richardson, it was for a few days the residence of King Charles the first: the room in which he lay is still called the king's chamber. A female heir of the Lambards brought this house in marriage to Sir Edward Bagot: it afterwards passed by purchase to the Rogers family. In Browne Willis's time the judges always lodged in it on their circuit: it is now the property and residence of Mr. Box.

The old church at Buckingham had a lofty spire, the height of which, from the ground, was 163 feet. It fell down on the 7th of February 1699: the tower which supported it remained till 1776, when that also fell down just after Mr. Pennant had quitted the church, which was not long afterwards wholly taken down and rebuilt on another site. The old church had on its south side a small chapel, dedicated to St. Rumbald, and an aisle built by the family of Fowler, in the reign of Edward IV. The chancel was built about the same time by John Ruding, Prebendary of Buckingham. On the north side was an aisle, which was the burial place of the Poultons and Ingoldsbys, but had no monument of either family. There were some memorials in the church for the Cliffords of Frampton, in Gloucestershire.

Browne Willis, in his History of Buckingham, laments that the church still remained destitute of its spire, which had been the glory and ornament of the town and county. In his account of Stowe, he again laments that the beautiful grounds belonging to that mansion should be deprived of one of their chief ornaments, the spire of Buckingham, and hints to the noble owner how much it would redound to his honour, should he rebuild it, and how consonant to his family motto, "*Templa quam dilecta.*" This motto is now appositely placed on the front
of

of the new church, to which the late Earl Temple was a considerable benefactor. This church, which was completed in 1780, is a handsome freestone building, and stands on an elevated spot, being the site of the old castle. The spire nearly equals in height that of the old church, (being 150 feet from the ground,) and is a very conspicuous object to the surrounding country. Over the altar is a copy of the Transfiguration, by Raphael, given to the parish by the Marquis of Buckingham. There are no monuments in the new church.

In the survey of Domesday the church of Buckingham is said to have belonged to Remigius, bishop of Lincoln. Before the year 1445, Buckingham was a chapel of ease to the neighbouring church of King's-Sutton, in Northamptonshire, the birth-place of St. Rumbald: it was then made an independant vicarage. The great tithes, together with the manor of Gawcot, a considerable hamlet in this parish, were appropriated to a prebend in the church of Lincoln, called the prebend of Sutton *cum* Buckingham. This prebend was surrendered to the crown in 1547, and made a lay fee: it was held under the crown, on grants for life, by the Duke of Somerset and Sir John Mason, and afterwards by others for terms of years. About the end of Queen Elizabeth's reign, it was granted to Robert Johnson: before 1612 it became the property of the Denton family. The manor now belongs to their representative Mrs. Coke, (widow of the late Wenman Coke esq. of Holkham,) who is patroness of the vicarage; the great tithes have been separated from the manor, and are for the most part the property of the Marquis of Buckingham. The vicarage is exempt from the archdeacon's jurisdiction, but subject to that of the bishop of Lincoln. The hamlet of *Gawcot* had formerly a chapel dedicated to St. Andrew; in Browne Willis's time it contained 100 houses, which is nearly the present number. The hamlets of *Gawcot* and *Prebend-end* have been inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1801, when allotments of land were assigned to the impropiators, and to the vicar, in lieu of tithes, and an allotment to the poor for furze.

There was a gild or brotherhood in the town of Buckingham, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, which possessed lands of considerable value, and a chantry-chapel, founded by Matthew Stratton, archdeacon of Buckingham, (who died in 1268,) and dedicated to St. John the Baptist and Thomas à Becket. This chapel was repaired in the reign of Edward IV. by John Ruding, archdeacon of Lincoln and prebendary of Buckingham; the pews which were then erected still remain, and the door of the original structure, which is of Saxon architecture: it has long been converted into a free-school, said to have been founded by King Edward VI. and endowed with a stipend of 10l. 8s. 0½d. *per annum*, payable out of the exchequer; the master's house having been burnt down, was rebuilt at the expence of Alexander Denton esq. in 1696.

Queen Elizabeth, in the year 1597, founded an alms-house at Buckingham for seven poor women, called Christ's Hospital, supposed to have been built on the site of an ancient hospital, dedicated to St. Lawrence, which existed as early as the year 1312. It is but slenderly endowed, chiefly by the benefaction of Mr. Harris, who gave the profits of the Wool-market and Wool-hall, and two fairs. John Barton, in 1431, founded a hospital for six poor persons, to each of whom he gave a groat a-week to pray for his soul. This alms-house or hospital seems to have been again given to the poor, with the same endowment, by Mrs. Dayrell in 1583: it was probably seized by the crown, as having been appropriated to superstitious purposes, and came into the Dayrell family either by grant or purchase: it is still called Barton's hospital.

The Presbyterians, Unitarians, Quakers, and Methodists, have chapels or meeting-houses at Buckingham.

BUCKLAND, in the hundred of Aylesbury and deanery of Wendover, has a parochial chapel, subject to the church of Bierton; it lies about five miles and a half east of Aylesbury, near the road to Tring. The manor was anciently in the families of Clifford and Leybourne; from the latter it passed by a female heir to the Despensers. Richard Neville, the great Earl of Warwick, died seized of it in 1469; it afterwards came to the crown. The Dormer family became possessed of it by purchase or grant, in the 16th century; from them it passed by marriage to the Stanhopes, and is now the property of the Earl of Chesterfield. The great tithes are appropriated to the dean and chapter of Lincoln.

BURNHAM, which gives name to a hundred and deanery, lies about three miles north-east of Maidenhead, and about a mile to the north of the road from London to Bath and Oxford. The parish is divided into five districts, called liberties, namely, those of Brightwell, Cippenham, Boveney, Wood, and East-Burnham.

Burnham had formerly a market on Thursdays, granted to the abbess of Burnham in 1271, together with a fair on the festival of St. Matthew: the market has been long disused; there are now three fairs, Feb. 23, May 1, and Oct. 2. The great road to Bath and Oxford formerly passed through Burnham; upon the building of Maidenhead bridge it was diverted to its present course, in consequence of which it is probable that this place fell to decay, and lost its market, which was transferred to Maidenhead. Cookham, on the other side the river, near which the old road passed, had also a market, which declined probably about the same time.

Richard, King of the Romans, in the year 1265, founded an abbey of Benedictine Nuns at Burnham, which was endowed with the manors of Burnham,

Cippenham,

Cippenham, Stoke, Bulstrode, and some smaller estates. When dissolved in the reign of King Henry VIII. its revenues were valued at 51l. 2s. 4½d. clear annual income; the site was then granted to William Tyldesley, but soon reverted to the crown. In 1574, Abbots-Park at Burnham was granted to Paul Wentworth esq. of Burnham-Abbey, then lessee under the crown. In the reign of Charles I. Sir Henry Fane procured a lease of Burnham-Abbey, which was afterwards in the family of Darrell and Lovelace; Lord Lovelace sold it to the Villiers family, who renewed with the crown in 1691; the lease is now vested in the Earl of Jersey. The site of the abbey, of which there are very small remains, is above a mile from the village of Burnham, a little to the south of the Bath road. The arms of the abbey were Or, on a chief Arg. three lozenges, Gules.

When the Domesday survey was taken, the manor of Burnham belonged to Walter Fitz-Other, ancestor of the Windfor family. Being in the crown in the reign of Henry III. that monarch gave it, with all its rights and privileges, to the abbots and convent. At some period subsequent to the dissolution of monasteries, it seems to have been united to the manor of Huntercombe, in this parish, the present proprietor of which, Mr. Sayer, gives a deputation for the manor of Burnham, *alias* Huntercombe, which claims jurisdiction over the greater part of the parish including West-towne and Boveney. These are spoken of in some deeds of the reign of Henry VII. as separate manors then belonging to Sir Reginald Bray. Boveney was at a later period in the Paules of Bray-wick. Sir Ch. H. Palmer seems to claim some jurisdiction over Boveney, by giving a deputation for his adjoining manor of Dorney, by the name of Dorney *cum* Boveney.

The manor of Huntercombe, formerly the property and seat of an ancient family of that name, at a later period was successively in the families of Windfor, Darrell, and Evelyn. William Evelyn, in the early part of the last century, sold Huntercombe to Anthony Collins and Thomas Eyre esq. Mr. Eyre, by a subsequent purchase, became possessed of the whole. In 1777, on the death of Thomas Eyre esq. the last heir male, this estate, and the manor of Allards, *alias* East-Burnham, which had been the property and seat of the Eyres for more than 400 years, devolved by his bequest to his nephew Henry Sayer esq. who is the present proprietor. Huntercombe-House was a few years ago in the occupation of Sir William Young bart. and since of the late Sir Booth Gore bart.: it is at present unoccupied.

The manor of Cippenham in this parish was part of the ancient demesnes of the crown, and is said to have been a palace of the Mercian Kings: it is certain there was a royal palace at Cippenham, so lately as the reign of Henry III. who occasionally resided there, as appears by the foundation charter of Burnham abbey, which is dated thence: it is probable that an ancient moated site near Cippenham was the spot where the palace stood. Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, who died in

1300, was seized of the manor of Cippenham, which in 1330 was granted to John of Eltham. About this period it seems that there were two manors in Cippenham, one of which was given to Burnham abbey, the other was granted in 1339 to Sir John Molins^a, and passed by female heirs to the families of Hungerford and Hastings: it is probable that they were united after the dissolution of the abbey. The manor of Cippenham, which had long been in the family of Goodwyn of Wooburn, was purchased by the Dukes of Marlborough about the year 1742; and having passed by her bequest to her grandson John Spencer, was sold by his representative, the present Earl Spencer, to the late Mr. Dupré: it is now the property of his son, James Dupré esq. of Wilton-Park.

The late learned Jacob Bryant esq. had a seat at Cippenham.

In *Boveney* liberty is a chapel of ease, a very ancient structure. An act of parliament passed in 1737, for making it a distinct cure, but the want of a sufficient endowment prevented it from taking effect.

Brightwell-Court, in Burnham, belonged formerly to the family of Cage, from whom it passed by marriage to John Hastings esq. of Woodlands. This John Hastings, who died in 1656, was son and heir of Sir George Hastings, son of Henry, a younger son of George, the fourth Earl of Huntingdon; there is a wooden tablet to his memory in Burnham church, which has the arms of Hastings, with 100 quarterings, over which are placed the arms of Cage, on an escutcheon of pretence. Brightwell-Court was for some time the seat of the accomplished Charles Earl of Orrery, who purchased it of Mr. Reeve, an eminent lawyer of Windsor: it has since been successively the seat of Crayle Crayle esq. Lady Ravenworth, John Symmons esq. and Lord Grenville. It is now the property and residence of the Hon. Mr. Irby, eldest son of Lord Boston.

In the parish church at Burnham is a handsome monument of the late Mr. Justice Willes, with a medallion, in which he is represented in his robes: there is a tablet also for his son, Edward Willes esq. and memorials of the families of Eyre, Evelyn, Hawtrej, and Sumner.

The advowson of the vicarage of Burnham was given to Eton College, by Mr. Hawtrej, a fellow of that society, in whose family it had been a considerable time. The vicarage is endowed with a part of the great tithes, the remainder are in lay hands: they were formerly appropriated to the abbess and convent of Burnham. Mr. Cole, the Cambridge antiquary, was vicar of this parish from 1774 till his death in 1780.

Robert Aldrich, bishop of Carlisle, was a native of Burnham.

^a Pat. 13 Edw. III.

CALVERTON, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies a mile to the south of Stony-Stratford. The manor passed by marriage from the Bulbecs to the noble families of Vere, Neville, and Percy. Henry, Earl of Northumberland, sold it about the year 1616 to Sir Thomas Bennet, from whose family it passed by a female heir to an ancestor of the Marquis of Salisbury, who is the present proprietor and patron of the rectory. The west side of Stony-Stratford, which was formerly in the parish of Calverton, has been made a separate parish by act of parliament. The parish of Calverton, and the west side of Stony-Stratford, were inclosed in 1782, when an allotment of land was assigned in lieu of tithes.

CASTLETHORPE, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies about three miles to the north of Stony-Stratford, on the borders of Northamptonshire. At this place was the ancient castle of the barony of Hanslope, taken and demolished in 1217, by Foulkes de Brent, when it was garrisoned against the king by its owner William Mauduit, one of the rebellious barons. It is most probable that it was never rebuilt: the site exhibits traces of very extensive buildings. The manor of Castlethorpe passed as an appendage of Hanslope, from the Mauduits to the Beauchamps and Nevilles, and eventually merged in the crown. In the reign of Charles II. it was granted to Sir Thomas Tyrrell, one of the justices of the Common Pleas, whose son procured an act of parliament in 1704, to enable him to sell this manor and other estates for the payment of his debts. Some years afterwards it was purchased either of the Tyrrells, or of some person to whom it had been sold under the above-mentioned act, by Sarah Duchess of Marlborough. It is now the property of Earl Spencer, whose grandfather became possessed of it under the will of the duchess. In the parochial chapel of Castlethorpe, which is an appendage of Hanslope, is a handsome monument in memory of Sir Thomas Tyrrell, above mentioned, who died in 1671. The parish of Castlethorpe has been inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1793, when an allotment of land was assigned to the corporation of Lincoln, as impropiators of the great tithes.

CAVERSFIELD, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies about two miles from Bicester, in Oxfordshire, wholly surrounded by that county. The manor of this place having been seized by King Henry II. in consequence of its owner, Brien Fitz-Count, having entered into a religious order, was granted to Robert Gargate, whose family gave a part of it to the prior and convent of Bicester, partly under whom, and partly in their own right, it seems to have been held for many generations by the Langstons. After the dissolution of monasteries they became possessed of the whole, which passed by a female heir to the Moyles, and afterwards

afterwards by successive purchases to the families of Davenport and Bard. Mr. Vaux, an attorney, bought it of the Bards in 1704, and it is supposed to have been purchased of him about the year 1741, by Sir James Harrington. In 1751 Sir James sold it to Mr. Southcote, of whom it was purchased in 1763, by the present proprietor, Joseph Bullock esq. who resides in the manor-house.

In the church are some memorials of the families of Langston, Moyle, and Bard. The great tithes were formerly appropriated to Missenden abbey. Mr. Bullock is patron of the benefice. A part of Stratton-Audley is in the county of Buckingham, and in this parish; the remainder, with the church, is in Oxfordshire. The parish of Caversfield has been inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1780, under which an allotment of land was given to the incumbent in lieu of the tithes of four yard-lands and a quarter, to which he was entitled, and an allotment to the dean and chapter of Christ-Church, as being possessed of the remainder of the tithes.

CHALFONT-ST. GILES, in the hundred and deanery of Burnham, lies nearly four miles from Amersham, on the road to London, and seven miles from Uxbridge, in Middlesex. The principal manor in this parish is called the Vache, from a family of that name, who possessed it in the reign of Edward I.; it had been before in the Fitz-Alans^a. A female heir brought it to the noble family of Grey, of Wilton: from them it passed by purchase to the Gardiners, and from the Gardiners to Thomas Fleetwood, treasurer of the mint, who died in 1570. Mr. Noble, in his memoirs of the Cromwell family, says, that this Mr. Fleetwood had 32 children by two wives; supposing the number to be accurate, the writer is mistaken in supposing that James Fleetwood, who died bishop of Worcester in 1683, was one of them; the bishop was *grandson* of Thomas Fleetwood, being a son of Sir George Fleetwood, who succeeded his father at the Vache, which continued in the family for more than a century. Francis Hare, bishop of Chichester, having married the heiress of the Claytons, who were the next proprietors, became possessed of the Vache, where he died in the year 1740, and was buried in the church of Chalfont-St. Giles. The late Admiral Sir Hugh Palliser purchased the Vache of Bishop Hare's representatives, in or about the year 1771, and made it his seat. In 1773 he was created a baronet: on his death, which happened in 1796, the title descended to his great nephew, Hugh Palliser Walter, now Sir Hugh Palliser Palliser bart. The Vache is under the admiral's will, the property of his natural son George Palliser esq.

^a The manor of Chalfont-St. Giles was restored to John Fitz-Alan, by Pat. 51 Hen. III.

The baronial family of Wolverton had a manor in this parish, which passed by a female heir to the Wakes, in the reign of Edward III.^b

During the great plague in 1665, Milton retired to Chalfont, where he finished his admirable poem of *Paradise Lost*. The idea of his *Paradise Regained*, is said to have been suggested by a conversation which passed at this place, between the poet and his friend Elwood, a quaker. The house in which Milton resided is now occupied by a farmer: it was built by some of the Fleetwood family, as appears from their arms over the door.

In the parish church are some monuments of the Fleetwoods and Claytons, and that of the late Sir Hugh Palliser, who lies there buried: there is no memorial for bishop Hare. The bishop of Lincoln is patron of the rectory, the advowson of which belonged formerly to the priory of Bradwell. Sir Hugh Palliser founded a school at this place for the education of 20 boys and 20 girls, and endowed it with 30*l. per annum*.

CHALFONT-ST. PETER, in the hundred and deanery of Burnham, lies about five miles from Amersham, on the road to London, and nearly six miles from Uxbridge in Middlesex. The manor, which belonged to Missenden abbey, was granted in 1536 to Robert Drury esq. whose descendants sold it in 1626 to the Bullstrodes: in 1646 it was conveyed to Thomas Gower esq. of whom, in 1650, it was purchased by Mr. Richard Whitchurch, ancestor of Mrs. Anne Whitchurch, the present proprietor.

An ancient manor in this parish takes its name from the family of Brudenell, (collateral ancestors of the Earl of Cardigan,) who formerly possessed it; from them it descended by female heirs to the Drurys and Osbornes. It afterwards came into the Duke of Portland's family, of whom it was purchased by Charles Churchill esq. the late proprietor: it is now the property of Thomas Hibbert esq. Mr. Hibbert's seat, which is called Chalfont-house, was a distinct property; and before it came into Mr. Churchill's hands, was in the families of Wilkins and Selman.

Newlands, in this parish, the seat of Sir Henry Thomas Gott, was purchased by its present possessor about the year 1770, of Mr. Croke of Beaconsfield: it had been formerly in the family of Saunders, and was sold by Sir John Saunders to Mr. Hopkins, of whom it was purchased by Mr. Croke.

In the church are memorials for the family of Whitchurch. The advowson and impropriation which belonged formerly to Missenden abbey, and afterwards to the Drurys, was given by Sir Thomas Allen to the president and scholars of St. John's college, in Oxford, who present the vicar and grant him a lease of the great tithes.

^b See Placit. &c. in Turr. Lond. Co. Bucks. No. 16.

The Earl of Portland built a school at Gerrard's Crofs, in this parifh, adjoining the road from London to High-Wycombe. It has no endowment, but has always been fupported by the Portland family: the duke appoints the mafter, and allows him a falary for teaching a number of boys of this and fome of the neighbouring parifhes.

William Courtney, who died in 1770, gave a loaf of bread weekly to each of eleven unmarried poor women of this parifh, and one to the clerk.

CHEDDINGTON, in the hundred of Cotflow and deanery of Murefley, lies about eight miles north-eaft of Aylesbury, and about two miles from Ivinghoe. In the reign of Edward I. the manor was in the Lucys, afterwards fucceffively in the families of Brocas and Combe: by the latter it was fold to the Hudfons, from whom it paffed by inheritance to the prefent proprietor, Mrs. Mary Seare. The Earl of Bridgwater is patron of the rector.

CHERSLEY, in the hundred of Afhendon and deanery of Waddefdon, lies about feven miles fouth-weft of Aylesbury, and nearly four miles from Thame, in Oxfordshire. This is fuppofed by fome authors to have been the *Cerdicefleah* of the Saxon Chronicle, where Cerdic and Cynric defeated the Britons.

The manor of Chersley was anciently in the noble family of Valence, Earl of Pembroke; and afterwards in the Hampdens: Edmund Hampden forfeited it by attainder in 1465. Before the year 1600, either by grant or purchafe, it became the property of the Dormers, from whom it defcended to the prefent proprietor, Sir Clement Cotterell Dormer. Sir Clement is patron alfo of the donative, and impropiator of the great tithes, which formerly belonged to the abbot and convent of Nutley, having been given to them by their founder, Walter Giffard. The church was anciently a chapel to Crendon: right of fepulture at Chersley was granted by the bifhop of Lincoln in 1458. An aét for the inclofure of this parifh paffed in 1805, when an allotment was made to the impropiator in lieu of tithes.

CHESHAM, in the hundred and deanery of Burnham, is about 29 miles from London: it has had a market on Wednefdays from time immemorial: the fairs are, April 21, July 22, and Sept. 28.

A manufacture of coarfe wooden ware is carried on in this town, to a confiderable extent; a great number of hands are employed in making fhoes for the London warehoufes; the female poor are for the moft part lace-makers. The town of Chesham, according to the returns made to parliament, under the population aét in 1801, contained 370 houfes, and 1910 inhabitants; of thefe 887 were ftated to be males, and 1023 females; 49 perfons only appear to have been employed chiefly in agriculture, and 656 in trade, manufactures, and handicraft.

The manor of Great-Chesham was parcel of the barony of Bulbec, and passed by a female heir to the Veres. The Earl of Oxford sold it, about the year 1550, to the Seymours: it was afterwards in the family of Sandys, from whom it passed by purchase to that of Cavendish. The present proprietor of this manor, to which the manors of Chesham-Higham and Chesham-Bury seem to have been annexed from an early period, is the Right Hon. Lord George Cavendish, only brother of the Duke of Devonshire, who has a seat in this parish at Latimers^a.

The manor of Grove, in this parish, was for many generations in the family of Cheyne. After some intermediate alienations, it was purchased in 1704 by Wm. Lowndes esq. secretary to the treasury, and is now the property of his descendant of the same name. Mr. Lowndes has also the manor of Hundridge in this parish. The site of the manor-house of Grove lies about half-way between Berkhamsted and Chesham. The Cheynes had anciently a seat there, which appears to have been a place of considerable strength: part of the great hall was remaining in 1750; there was a chapel adjoining the house. Mr. Lowndes, the purchaser of this estate, built a house adjoining the church-yard at Chesham, now the seat of his descendant above-mentioned.

The parish church is a large Gothic structure: in the chancel are several monuments of the family of Skottowe, among which is one from an elegant design by Bacon, for Nicholas Skottowe esq. who died in 1798. In the south aisle is the monument of Sir John Cavendish K. B. (a younger son of the first Earl of Devonshire) who died without issue in 1618, and that of Mary, the first wife of Sir Francis Whichcote bart.

The impropriation of the great tithes was formerly divided between the monasteries of Leicester and Woburn, each of which appointed a vicar. The rectorial manor of Chesham-Woburn, with the advowson of one mediety of the vicarage, was granted to the Ruffel family in 1553. The late Duke of Bedford sold the manor to the Rev. Mr. Hubbard, but retained the advowson. The tithes of most of the estates within the manor have been purchased by the several proprietors. The two medieties of the vicarage were consolidated by act of parliament in the year 1767: the Duke of Bedford being the patron of both, built the present vicarage house, and pulled down the two houses which had belonged to the portionists. The rectorial manor of Chesham-Leicester, together with the advowson of a mediety of the vicarage, belonged in the year 1609 to the family of Ashfield, who sold it to the Whichcotes about the year 1650. The rectory-house near the church-yard was for some time one of the residences of that family, whose chief seat is in Lincolnshire. About the year 1730, they sold this estate to the Skottowes, excepting the advowson

^a See the next page.

which was purchased by the Duke of Bedford. This manor has lately been sold piece-meal; the tithes were for the most part purchased by the proprietors of the several estates, and the rectory-house by Mr. Lowndes.

Thomas Wedon, who died in 1624, founded an alms-house in this parish for four poor persons, and endowed it with 35*l. per annum.*

Hundridge, where was formerly a chapel of ease, *Chartridge* and *Afbridge*, *Afbley-Green* and *Billington*, *Botley*, *Water-side* and *Latimers*, are hamlets of this parish. These hamlets contained, in 1801, according to the returns then made to parliament under the population act, 424 houses, 23 of which were uninhabited. The number of inhabitants was 2059, which, added to those in the town of Chesham, makes the total number of inhabitants in the parish amount to 3967, and that of houses to 803: it being nearly as populous as the parish of High-Wycombe, and, excepting that, the most populous in the county.

The ancient name of *Latimers* was *Isenhampsted* or *Iselhampsted*. It seems to have been formerly considered as a distinct parish. The benefice, which has been sometimes called a rectory, but which is more properly a donative endowed with tithes, is distinct from Chesham, being in the patronage of the Cavendish family; but as the births and burials are all registered at Chesham, and it is assessed jointly to the poor-rate and other parochial taxes, it can now only be considered as a hamlet of that parish. King Edward III. in the year 1324, granted the manor of *Iselhampsted*, which had belonged to Hugh Le Despencer^b, to Sir Simon de Bereford, and two years afterwards to William Latimer^c, from whose family it derived its present name, being called *Iselhampsted* or *Isenhampsted-Latimers*, to distinguish it from the neighbouring village of *Isenhampsted-Cheynies*. From the Latimers this manor passed to the Grevilles, who sold it to Sir Edwin Sandys. Hester, the daughter of Miles Sandys esq. who was born at Latimers and baptized at Chesham in 1569, is the lady celebrated by Fuller in his *Worthies*, as the parent stock of a posterity of seven hundred persons, whom she lived to see descended from her to the fourth generation: her own children were thirteen in number. The author assures us that he speaks within compass, having bought the truth by a wager which he lost on the subject. This lady married Sir Thomas Temple of Stowe, and died in 1656, at the age of 87. From the family of Sandys, Latimers passed by purchase to that of Cavendish. When King Charles I. was carried about in triumph by the parliamentary army, he was brought for a few days to Latimers, which was then inhabited by Christian, Countess of Devonshire, and her son the earl. It may be supposed that the captive monarch experienced all the attention which his illustrious rank and

^b Pat. 2 Edw. III.

^c Pat. 4 Edw. III.

misfortunes claimed, from that celebrated lady, whose zeal and loyalty on a subsequent occasion exposed her life to hazard. Latimers is now the property and seat of the Right Hon. Lord George Augustus Henry Cavendish.

In the chapel belonging to this hamlet, which is situated near the mansion, is the monument of a young actress, of the name of Campion (put up by George Duke of Devonshire) with the following inscription;—on one side: “*Requiescit hic pars mortalis Mæ. Cn. Obiit 19 Maii Ao. 1706, Ætatis 19: quod superest ex alterâ parte quære.*”—On the other side.—“*Formam egregiam & miris illecebris ornatam virtutes animi superârunt: plebeium genus sed honestum nobilitate morum decoravit. Suprà ætatem sagax; suprà sortem præsertim egenis benigna; inter scenicos ludos in quibus aliquandiu versata est, verecunda et intemerata. Post quatuor mensum languorem a febris heclicâ correpta intempestivam mortem forti pectore et Christianâ pietate subivit. Humanitate præditis si quid mentem mortalia tangunt flebilis, amicis heu flebilior: dilectissimis reliquiis sacrum lapidem hunc poni curavit, G. D. D.”*

CHESHAM-BOIS, in the hundred and deanery of Burnham, lies nearly two miles south of the town of Chesham. The family of De Bosco or De Bois were possessed of the manor in the reign of King John. About the reign of Henry VII. it came into the Cheyne family, by the marriage of Sir Thomas Cheyne, of Cheynies and Drayton-Beauchamp, with Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Sir John Chesham^d, who seems to have inherited in the female line from the family of De Bois. From this time it continued to be one of their principal seats, until the death of William Cheyne, Lord Viscount Newhaven, without male issue in 1728: soon after this, it became the property of John Earl Gower, and was sold by him, in 1735, to the Duke of Bedford, from whom it has descended to his grandson, the present duke. In the parish church are some memorials for the family of Cheyne, and other persons allied with it, among which is an altar-tomb (without inscription), which has the insignia of the Garter. The church was formerly a chapel of ease to Chesham, but has since become parochial: the Duke of Bedford has the great tithes, and is patron of the donative.

CHETWODE, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies about five miles south-west of the county town, on the borders of Oxfordshire. Sir Ralph de Norwich founded a priory at Chetwode, in the year 1244, for Augustine monks. In 1460 it was dissolved on account of its poverty, and annexed to the abbey of Nutley.

^d Buckinghamshire Visitation in the Heralds' College.

The principal manor is the property of Sir John Chetwode bart. a lineal descendant of Robert de Thain, who held it under the bishop of Baieux, at the time of the Norman survey, since which it has never been alienated by sale. It passed indeed for a time, by the heir female of an elder branch of the Chetwodes, to the baronial family of Woodhull or Wahul; but, after a few generations, reverted by the marriage of an heiress of the Wahuls, to a younger branch of the Chetwodes, from whom the present baronet is descended: the Chetwodes had formerly a seat here, but it has long been deserted, their chief residence being at Oakley in Staffordshire.

The priory manor which belonged to Nutley abbey, after the dissolution of the monastery of Chetwode, was granted in 1541 to the family of Risley, who continued to possess it until the death of Paul Risley esq. without issue, in 1755: it is now in severalties.

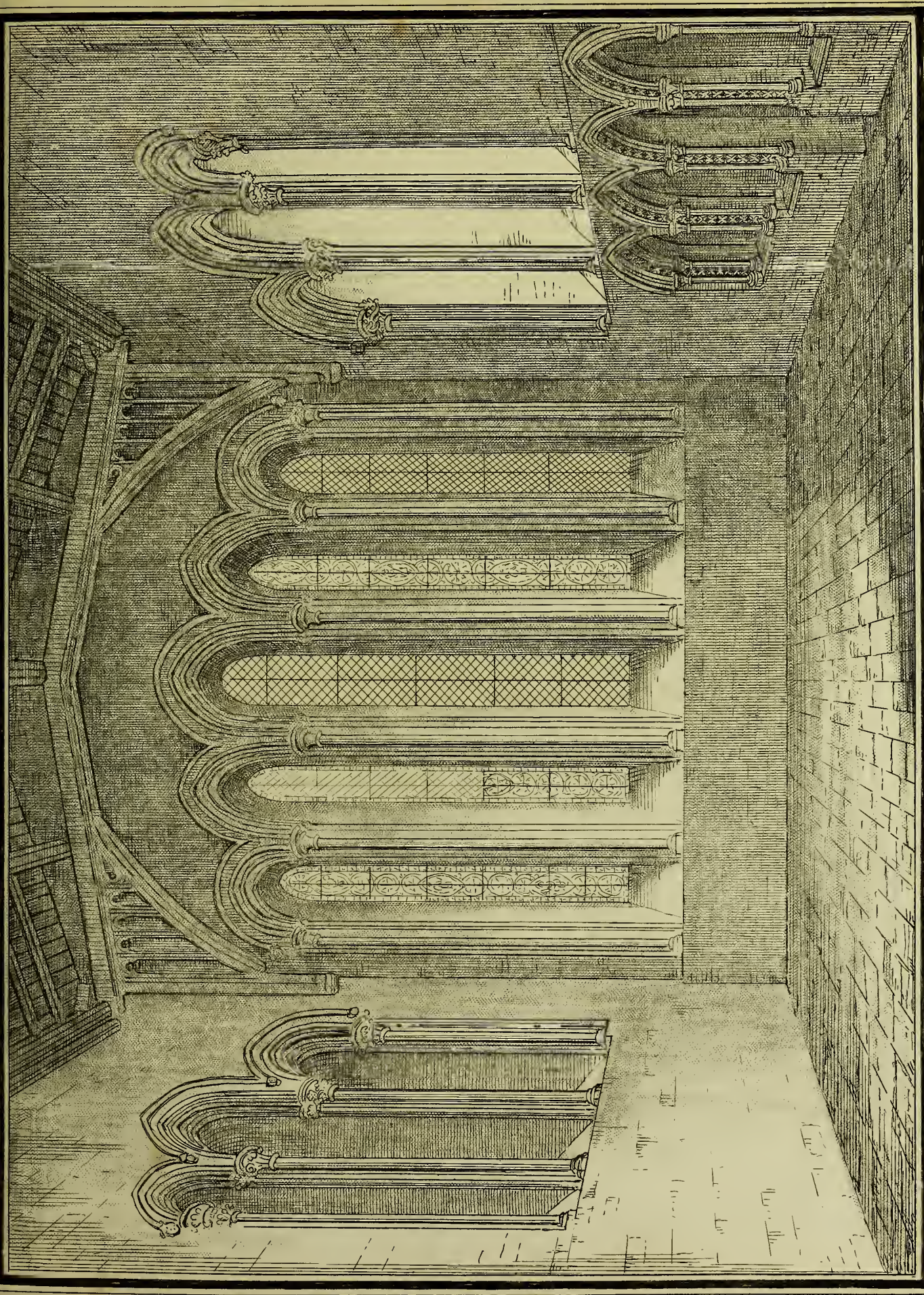
The old parish church of St. Martin, which stood a quarter of a mile east of the priory, was pulled down in Queen Elizabeth's time: in this church was a monument of Sir John Chetwode, an ancestor of the present baronet of that name, and his lady. The conventual church, which was made parochial in 1480, still remains: in the chancel, which appears to be coeval with the foundation of the priory*, are some memorials of the family of Risley. There was anciently an hermitage at Chetwode, dedicated to St. Stephen and St. Lawrence, which was founded by an ancestor of the Chetwodes.

Edward Lame esq. William Pearson esq. and Mrs. Lynch, have the impropriation of the 'great tithes. The benefice of Chetwode and the neighbouring parish of Barton-Hartthorne are consolidated.

CHICHLEY, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies about two miles and a half north-east of Newport-Pagnell. The manor of Chichley (probably the same which is spoken of in Dugdale's *Monasticon*†, by the name of the manor of Thickthorn, in Chichley and Hardmead) was given to the monastery of Tickford, by its founder Fulk Paganell. It was given by King Henry VIII. to Cardinal Wolsey, and by him made part of the endowment of his new College; but on his attainder it reverted to the crown, and was granted to Anthony Cave, from whose family it passed by a female heir to the Chesters. Anthony Chester esq. of Chichley, was created a baronet in 1619: his son Sir Anthony, the second baronet, distinguished himself in the royal army at the battle of Naseby. His estates were sequestered, and his house at Chichley sustained much injury, when the neighbouring town of Newport-Pagnell was garrisoned by the parliament. The manor of Chichley is now the property of Charles Chester esq. M. P. whose father Charles Bagot, next

* See p. 487.

† I. 686.



THE CHANCEL OF CHETWODE CHURCH, BUCKS.

W. & A. C.



brother to the late Lord Bagot, took the name of this family by act of parliament, in 1750: he succeeded to this estate on the death of his cousin, Sir Charles Bagot Chester, the last baronet, in 1755. Chichley-house is at present uninhabited.

The great tithes, which belonged to the priory of Tickford, are now the property of Mr. Chester, who is patron of the vicarage. Browne Willis supposes that Richard Weston, Earl of Portland, Lord Treasurer to King James I. was a native of Chichley, and that he was the same person, who, being then Richard Weston esq. was married in that church to Elizabeth Newdigate, in 1596.

CHILTON, in the hundred of Ashendon and deanery of Waddeston, lies nine miles west of Aylesbury, and about four miles north of Thame, in Oxfordshire. Paulinus Peyvre, the opulent steward of King Henry III's household, had a seat at Chilton^s, and was possessed of the manor which continued some time in his family. Before 1550 it passed to the Crokes by purchase, from the family of Zouche: it was again alienated in or about 1682, and having been successively in the families of Limbrey and Hervey, passed to the Carters, and is now, by marriage with the heiress of that family, the property of Sir John Aubrey bart. whose seat is in the neighbouring parish of Dourton. Chilton-house, the seat of the late Mr. Carter, is unoccupied.

In the parish church are some monuments of the Crokes; that of Sir John Croke, who died in 1608, is much ornamented in the style which then prevailed, and has his effigies in armour. Sir John was father of Sir George Croke, the celebrated lawyer, famous for his zealous opposition to the tax of ship-money, in the reign of Charles I.: he was a native of Chilton, and lies buried in the church there, without any memorial. At the west end of the church is a large marble monument for the family of Carter: on the south side of the entrance into the chancel was a stone desk and pulpit; the desk remains, with the steps which led to the pulpit.

The rectory, to which manerial rights were annexed, was given to Nutley abbey by its founder Walter Giffard: the impropriation is now vested in Sir John Aubrey, who is patron of the donative.

At *Easington*, a considerable hamlet of this parish, was formerly a chapel of ease. The manor of Easington, which was for many generations in the noble family of Stafford, has of late years been annexed to Chilton.

CHOLESBURY or CHOULESBURY, in the hundred of Cotflow and deanery of Muresley, lies about five miles east of Wendover, on the borders of Hertfordshire.

^s Kennet's Parochial Antiquities, p. 242.

This manor, anciently called Chelwoldsbury, belonged in early times to the Beauchamps, and afterwards to the Perots^h. In 1364, King Edward III. granted this manor, which had been held for life by John de Cobham, to Thomas Cheyne, his shield-bearerⁱ, whose descendants in the reign of Henry VIII. sold it to Lord Chief Justice Baldwin: in 1748 it was purchased of the Seares, in whose family it had then been for a considerable time, by Robert Darell esq. father of Edward Darell esq. the present proprietor.

The church, which was formerly a chapel to Drayton-Beauchamp, stands within a circular moat, which incloses an area of about twelve acres. Within this area is a pond, called the Bury pond. To the north of Cholebury a large dyke runs from east to west, over Wigginton Common, through the parish of Tring to Drayton-Beauchamp. The living is a perpetual curacy, endowed with the tithes of the parish, which are of very small value: the patronage is vested in the trustees of Joseph Neale esq. who in 1705 founded an evening lecture for preaching, catechising, and expounding the Catechism at Cholebury and Wigginton, endowing it with an estate at Cublington, let since the inclosure at 90*l. per annum*. By the founder's rules the lecturer is to preach at Cholebury on Christmas-day and the 5th of November, and to preach and catechise the children every Sunday afternoon during the winter season; on the second and fourth Sunday in every month, from Easter to Michaelmas, to preach, catechise, and expound the Catechism at Wigginton; and on the other Sundays during that period, to perform the same duties at Cholebury. The curate of Cholebury may be (and hitherto has been) appointed by the trustees to the lectureship, but he is removeable from the lectureship by the trustees for misbehaviour, or neglecting the rules and orders of the founder. There are nine trustees, which number is to be filled up from time to time when reduced to six.

EAST-CLAYDON, in the hundred of Ashendon and deanery of Waddefdon, lies about two miles and a half to the south-west of Winslow. In the reign of Edward III. the manor was in the Greys of Rotherfield, afterwards successively in the Deincourts and Lovels, and at a later period in the families of Lea and Abell. It was purchased of the latter in 1728, by Lord Fermanagh, and is now the property of his niece, Mary Baroness Fermanagh. The manor of *Bottle-Claydon*, a hamlet of this parish, has passed with it.

The church of East-Claydon was demolished during the civil war by Cornelius Holland, one of King Charles's judges: it was rebuilt after the restoration. In

^h Bund. Placit. &c. in Turr. Lond. Co. Bucks, No. 3.

ⁱ Pat. 38 Edw. III.

this church are some memorials of the families of Abel and Milward. The impropriation of the great tithes, which formerly belonged to the priory of Osney, is vested in Lady Fermanagh, who is patroness of the vicarage.

MIDDLE-CLAYDON, in the hundred of Ashendon and deanery of Waddeston, lies nearly two miles from East-Claydon, and about four miles south-west of Winslow. The manor was held under the Peverells, soon after the Norman conquest, by the family of Gresley, from whom it passed by female heirs to the Cantilupes and Zouches. Sir John Brockley, who was Lord Mayor of London in 1433, bought it of the Zouches: in 1458 it was sold by him or his representatives to Sir Ralph Verney, whose descendant of the same name was created a baronet in 1661. Sir Ralph's son was, in 1703, created an Irish viscount, by the title of Fermanagh, and, in 1742, his grandson was created Earl Verney. These titles became extinct in 1791, by the death of the second earl, whose niece, Mary Verney, was the next year created Baroness Fermanagh, and is the present proprietor of this manor.

Either Sir Ralph Verney who purchased Middle-Claydon, or his son Sir John, built a capital mansion there in the reign of Henry VII. which has ever since been the chief seat of the family, but having undergone many alterations, retains no vestige of its ancient form. The more modern part was fitted up in a very magnificent manner, and furnished, with great expence, by the late Earl Verney. The furniture was sold after his death, the state rooms not being made use of by the present owner, who resides during the greater part of the year at a villa in Kent. The saloon is forty-eight feet eight inches by thirty-two feet eight inches, and twenty-four feet three inches in height. The dining-room and drawing room are of the same length and height, but in width only twenty-seven feet six inches; these rooms still contain a few portraits, among which is a fine picture of Sir Edmund Verney, by Vandyke. The grand stair-case is inlaid with various wood, and the iron railing is very richly wrought.

In the parish church are several memorials of the Verney family, the most remarkable is the monument of Sir Edmund Verney above-mentioned, who was standard-bearer to King Charles I. and fell at the battle of Edgehill in 1642: it is ornamented with busts of himself, his son, Sir Ralph Verney, and their wives. In the chancel, which was built by the Gyfford family in 1519, is a tomb, with brasses, of Roger Gyfford, who died in 1542, and his wife ———. Lady Fermanagh is patroness of the rectory.

Sir Ralph Verney, the first baronet, who died in 1696, built an alms-house for six poor persons: it has no endowment.

STEEPLE-CLAYDON, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies about a mile and a half from Middle-Claydon, and nearly six miles west of Winflow. The manor was given by King Henry I. to Robert D'Oyley, as part of the marriage portion of his wife Edith, who had been the king's mistress. About 100 years after this, it was in the family of Fitz-John, and passed by female heirs to the Cliffords, Burghs, and Mortimers. From Edmund Mortimer, Earl of March, it descended to his grandson, King Edward IV. and thus became vested in the crown. In 1557 it was granted in fee to Sir Thomas Chaloner, a celebrated writer and soldier, who was knighted by the protector Somerset, in Muffelborough field, and the manor-house became one of the seats of that family. This estate was forfeited by the attainder of Thomas Chaloner, one of the judges of King Charles I. but repurchased of the grantee by the family. Sir John Verney bought it of William Chaloner esq. in 1705: it is now the property of Lady Fermanagh. The manor-house has been pulled down, and its site is now occupied by a farm.

In the parish church is a memorial for Edward Chaloner esq. thirty years a lieutenant in the navy, who died in 1766. He was grandson of Thomas Chaloner the regicide, great grandson of the learned Sir Thomas Chaloner, (tutor to Henry, Prince of Wales,) and great great-grandson of Sir Thomas Chaloner, grantee of the manor as above-mentioned. Thomas Chaloner the regicide, in the year 1656, built a school-house at Claydon, which still remains, and endowed it with 12l. *per annum*: the endowment has been lost, but Lady Fermanagh, who possesses the estates of the Chaloners, allows two shillings a-week to a school-mistress. The inappropriate rectory, which was formerly parcel of the possessions of the priory of Ofeney, belongs to Lady Fermanagh, who is patroness of the vicarage. The parish of Steeple-Claydon has been inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1795, when a corn-rent was assigned to the vicar, and allotments of land to Lady Fermanagh, as impropriatrix; and to George Hardinge and Charles Webb esq. for portions of tithes.

CLIFTON-REYNES, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies about half a mile to the east of Olney, across the river, but the nearest road to it from that town is about two miles and a half. This place took its name from the ancient family of Reynes, who possessed a manor in this parish, which passed by a female heir to the Lowes, and was sold by them to the celebrated Serjeant Maynard. From the Maynards it passed by marriage to the noble family of Hobart, and was sold about the year 1750, by the Earl of Buckinghamshire, to Mr. Small, father of the present proprietor, Alexander Small esq. who has a seat at Clifton-Reynes. Another manor, called also the manor of Clifton-Reynes, was from an early period in the noble

noble family of Mordaunt, and was sold by the Earl of Peterborough in 1786, to John Higgins esq. of Turvey in Bedfordshire, who is the present proprietor. In the church are some ancient tombs of the families of Beauchamp, Zouche, and Reynes, the only one which has an inscription, is that of Sir John Reynes, who died in 1428. Mr. Small is patron of the rectory.

NORTH-CRAWLEY, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies about three miles and a half to the west of Newport-Pagnell, on the borders of Bedfordshire. At this place was an ancient monastery, dedicated to St. Firmin, which is mentioned in the Survey of Domesday; it was destroyed or fell to decay so long before the general dissolution of monasteries, that no notice of it has been found in any records subsequent to the above-mentioned survey. There are three manors in this parish, all of which are now the property of William Lowndes Stone esq.^a of Brightwell, in Oxfordshire. The principal of these, called the manor of Great-Crawley, was held under the honor of Gloucester, by the Filiols, and passed by female heirs to the families of Bohun, Owen, and Southwell. It was purchased of the latter in the reign of King Henry VIII. by Sir Robert Dormer, and of his descendants in 1704, by Francis Duncombe, who sold it to William Lowndes esq. in 1724. A second manor (now called Broughtons) was in the family of Broughton from 1219 to 1529. It passed afterwards by successive purchases to the families of Morton, Stanton, Knight, and Gregory: the heirs of Gregory sold it to Mr. Lowndes. The Manor of Hellows belonged successively to the Latimers and Nevilles, and was at a later period in the families of Apreece, Smith, and Duncombe: Mr. Lowndes purchased of the Duncombes.

The parish church is a spacious and handsome Gothic structure, dedicated to St. Firmin; the patron of the ancient monastery at this place; the chancel was built by Peter de Guildford, rector of the parish, who died in 1321. Under the east window on the outside is the following inscription:

“ Petrus cancellum tibi dat Firmine novellum
Ut cum lauderis Deo, Petri memoreris.”

In the chancel are some memorials of the family of Hacket; the rood-loft remains, between the nave and chancel: the screen is of wood, richly carved and decorated with figures of saints, &c. under Gothic canopies.

^a An act of parliament, passed in 1755, to enable William Lowndes esq. to take the name of Stone, in addition to that of Lowndes.

The advowson of the rectory, which was formerly in the families of Hacket and Carew, is now the property of Mr. Lowndes Stone. This parish has been inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1772, when an allotment of land was assigned to the rector, in lieu of tithes.

CRENDON or LONG-CRENDON, in the hundred of Affendon and deanery of Waddesdon, lies about two miles north of Thame, in Oxfordshire, and about nine miles south-west of Aylesbury: it is a populous village, nearly a mile in length, and had formerly a market on Thursdays, granted in 1218 to William Earl Marshall. The manor of Crendon was anciently the property of the Giffards Earls of Buckingham, who had a feat there; Crendon park is mentioned in the survey of Domesday. The manor passed by female descent to the noble families of Marshall and Warren, and was afterwards divided into three parts, among their co-heirs: these became distinct manors. One of them having been in the family of Bohun, became vested in the crown, and was given to the dean and chapter of Windsor in 1478: another became the property of All-Souls College, in Oxford: the third manor was in the Mortimers: Roger Mortimer, Earl of March, gave it in exchange for other lands, in the year 1357, to Sir William Ferrars^b, of the Groby family. At a later period it was in the Dormers, and is now the property of the Marquis of Buckingham. In the parish church is a handsome monument of Sir John Dormer, lord of this manor, who died in 1626. The great tithes which were given to Nutley Abbey, in this parish, by its founder, Walter Giffard, are now the property of the Marquis of Buckingham, who is patron of the donative.

Walter Giffard, the second and last Earl of Buckingham of that family, in conjunction with his wife Ermengard, founded a convent of Augustine monks, in the year 1162, in his park at Crendon, to which he gave the name of Noctele, Nutley, or *de Parco* Crendon. The park was given by the founder to the monastery, which was dedicated to St. Mary and St. John the Baptist. William Marshall gave the monks the privilege of the pastoral staff, which was confirmed by King John. The Bohuns had afterwards the patronage of Nutley Abbey, the revenues of which at the dissolution were valued, according to Dugdale, at 437l. 6s. 8d $\frac{1}{2}$. *per annum*. Richard Ridge, the last abbot, had a pension assigned him by the crown of 100l. *per annum* in lieu of his office. The site of the abbey was granted by King Edward VI. to Sir William Paget; it was afterwards for a considerable time in the family of Lenton, from whom it passed to the Berties. It is now, together with the manor of Nutley, the property of Mr. Reynolds, a farmer, who resides in the

^b Pat. 31 Edw. III.

remains of the Abbey-house. A great part of the ruins, as represented in Buck's view, have been since taken down : the ancient roof of the hall, which was sixty-eight feet by twenty-three feet nine inches, was removed by the Bertie family, to Chester-ton in Oxfordshire, its place having been supplied by a common tiled roof ; this room is now used as a barn. On the inside of the east wall is a corbel-table in that style of architecture which prevailed in the reign of Henry III. richly orna-mented with foliage. The small remains of the cloisters are now a pig-stye. Round the cornice of an ancient room in the farm-house, is the Stafford knot, several times repeated, with the following inscription in black letter, "*En lui plaisance.*"

CHRISTLOW or CRESTLOW, in the hundred of Cotflow, lies not far from Whit-church, about six miles north of Aylesbury. The manor which belonged to the priory of St. John of Jerusalem is now the property of Lord Clifford, of Ugbrook, and has been for a considerable time in his family. The parish church was de-molished in the civil war, by Cornelius Holland, one of King Charles's judges, and has never been rebuilt. There is now only one house in the parish.

CUBLINGTON, in the hundred of Cotflow and deanery of Muresley, lies about seven miles nearly to the north of Aylesbury. The manor was successively in the families of Cheyne, Despencer, Lucy, Corbet, Willoughby and Carter. It was purchased of the latter in 1664, by the Tourneys, from whom it passed by a female heir to the present proprietor, Thomas Sheppard esq.

In the church, which was removed to its present site in the year 1400, are some memorials of the Tourney family.

The patronage of the rectory belongs to Lincoln College, in Oxford. This parish has been inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in the year 1769, when an allotment of land was assigned to the rector, in lieu of tithes, glebe, &c.

CUDDINGTON, in the hundred of Aylesbury and deanery of Wendover, lies about six miles nearly west of Aylesbury. The manor was anciently annexed to the church of Rochester, but (by some exchange it is supposed) became vested in the crown. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth it was conveyed by the Goodwyns to the Tyringhams ; what became of it afterwards is not known. The late Lord Wenman claimed manerial rights in Cuddington, as annexed to the manor of Had-denham. James Holyman, the second bishop of Bristol, who wrote boldly against the divorce of Catharine of Arragon, was a native of this place.

The parochial chapel of Cuddington is annexed to the Church of Haddenham : the great tithes are appropriated to the dean and chapter of Rochester. Browne

Willis speaks of a medicinal spring near this village, formerly in great repute: it appears by the tradition of the inhabitants, that this is the spring from which a small stream called Dadbrook takes its rise; its virtues are still talked of, but it has long been wholly difused.

DATCHET, in the hundred and deanery of Burnham, lies on the banks of the Thames, two miles from Eton. The manor of Datchet was granted by King Edward III. in 1335^c to William de Montacute, who the same year conveyed it to Sir John Molins^d. In 1558, the manor of Datchet was leased by the crown to Sir Maurice Berkeley, who made it his residence. In 1631, the manor of Datchet, described as having formerly been parcel of the possessions of the castle and honour of Windsor; and the manor of Datchet-St. Helens, which had belonged to the priory of St. Helens, and had been afterwards annexed to the honour of Windsor, were granted by King Charles I. to Sir Charles Harbord and others, by whom they were conveyed to Sir William Wheeler. In 1681, Andrew Pitcairne, *alias* Wheeler, conveyed this estate to Budd Wafe, whose daughter and heir married John Whitfield esq. of Canterbury. It is now the property of the Dukes of Buccleugh, by inheritance from John Duke of Montagu, who in 1742 purchased it of two gentlemen, to whom it had been conveyed in 1730, by Mr. and Mrs. Whitfield.

In the parish church is the monument of Catharine, wife of Sir Maurice Berkeley, daughter of Lord Montjoy; that of Christopher Barker, printer to Queen Elizabeth, who died in 1607, and several for the family of Wheeler.

The rectory and advowson of the vicarage belonged anciently to the see of Lincoln: they were given by King Edward III. to the dean and chapter of Windsor. The bridge over the Thames at Datchet, originally built by Queen Anne, fell down in the year 1795, and has not since been rebuilt.

DENHAM, in the hundred of Stoke and deanery of Burnham, lies two miles from Uxbridge in Middlesex, near the road to High Wycombe. The manor was given to the abbot and convent of Westminster in 1299^e. After the reformation it was granted to the family of Peckham, who continued in possession of it till after the death of Sir George Peckham, in 1586, when it was seized for a debt to the crown. In 1596, the manor, Denham-Court, Denham-Place, and the advowson of the rectory, were all demised to William Bowyer esq. to whom they were afterwards granted in fee. Sir Roger Hill, who was sheriff of the county in 1673, purchased the manor, Denham-Place, and the advowson, of the Bowyers; they are now by female descent the property of Benjamin Way esq.

Denham Place, the seat of Mr. Way, is a large brick mansion, built by Sir

^c Pat. 9 Edw. III.

^d Ibid.

^e Pat. 27 Edw. I.

Roger Hill, on the site of an old house belonging to the Peckhams. The chapel is fitted up with mantled wainscot and carving, in the style which prevailed in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. The windows are ornamented with coats of arms in stained glass. In the library is a very curious picture of the house of commons, with portraits of the members. The dresses are of the age of Charles II. and it is probable that it represents the parliament of 1679, in which Sir Roger Hill was one of the members for Amer sham: William Williams was then speaker.

Denham-Court continues in the Bowyer family; William Bowyer the grantee, afterwards Sir William Bowyer *knt.* was one of the tellers of the Exchequer; his grandson, of the same name, was created a baronet in 1660. The present proprietor of Denham-Court is Sir George Bowyer, in whom two titles are united, for his father, the late gallant Admiral, who possessed Radley in Berkshire by inheritance from the Stonhouses, was created a baronet in 1794, in the life-time of his elder brother, the late Sir William Bowyer. The manor of Denham-Durdants, formerly the property of an ancient family of that name, who were settled at Denham from the year 1259, till 1414, or perhaps later, and afterwards belonging to the Savoy hospital, was given by King Edward VI. to the citizens of London, towards the endowment of St. Thomas's Hospital.

In the parish church are several monuments, both ancient and modern, among the former are some brass plates of the Durdant family above-mentioned; that of Agnes Jordan, the last abbess of Syon; an altar tomb, in memory of Sir Edmund Peckham, who died in 1570 with the effigies of himself and his lady, and that of his son Sir Robert Peckham, privy counsellor to Queen Mary, who married one of the coheiresses of the last Lord Bray, and died in 1569, being then on his travels, and was buried in the church of St. Gregory at Rome: his heart was deposited at Denham, pursuant to his own request. Among the more modern monuments is a series of plain mural tablets, in memory of the Bowyer family, including the late baronet, who died in 1799. The earliest is that for Sir William Bowyer *knt.* grantee of the manor, who died in 1616. There are monuments also for the families of Hill, Lockety, and Way, connected by marriage.

DINTON, in the hundred of Aylesbury and deanery of Wendover, lies about four miles south-west of Aylesbury, near the road to Thame. The manor was anciently in the Munchensis. In 1464, having been forfeited by the attainder of Sir Robert Whittingham, it was granted to Sir John Montgomery and his heirs male^f: it was afterwards in the Verneys. The Maynes became possessed of it,

^f Pat. 4 Edw. IV.

and settled at Dinton about the year 1606: upon the attainder of Simon Mayne, one of the regicides, who died in prison after conviction, and was buried at Dinton in 1661, this manor became forfeited, but was repossessed by the family probably through the indulgence of the crown, and was sold in 1727, by Simon Mayne, grandson of the regicide, to John Vanhattem esq. father of the late Sir John Vanhattem, who died in 1789. His son-in-law, the Rev. William Goodall, is the present proprietor. The hamlets of *Westlington* and *Ford* are attached to this manor.

The manor-house, now the seat of Mr. Goodall, is an ancient mansion, which was for many years the residence of the Maynes. Mr. Goodall has several papers relating to the history of the parish; a collection of extraneous fossils from Dinton and its neighbourhood, where they are found in great abundance; and some antiquities discovered in an arable field near the road to Thame, by labourers who were digging for the foundation of a castellated building erected by Sir John Vanhattem in 1769. The most remarkable is a small vessel of thin green glass, of a conical form, which is engraved in the 10th volume of the *Archæologia*. The manors of Aston-Molins and Walldridge, in this parish, are in the hundred of Ashendon, and the manor of Morton, in the hundred of Desborough. The manor of Aston-Molins, formerly called Aston-Bernard, belonged anciently to the family of Fitz-Bernard, from whom it passed by purchase to the Blackets^r. In 1331, Sir John Molins, who held this manor by grand serjeanty, as marshal of the king's falcons, had a licence to embattle his house at Aston-Molins: from him the manor passed by female heirs to the families of Hungerford and Hastings. The family of Serjeant became possessed of it about the year 1606: it is now the property of Matthew Raper esq. whose ancestors purchased it of the Serjeants in 1720.

The manor of Walldridge belonged also to the Serjeants: it was afterwards the seat of Sir Richard Ingoldsbys, who purchased it in 1651 of the Serjeants. It is somewhat singular, that Dinton should have been the residence of two of the judges of King Charles I. Sir Richard Ingoldsbys and Simon Mayne; the former was pardoned and taken into favour after the restoration. Walldridge is now the property of the Marquis of Winchester, who married the heiress of the Ingoldsbys. The manor of Morton has been long held on lease by the Waller family, under the church of Winchester. The Lees of Hartwell, before their marriage with the heiress of that estate, were of Morton, and it is probable that they were lessees of the manor before the Wallers. The manor of Upton, in this parish, belonged to Lord Chief Justice Baldwin, and having passed by female heirs to the Borlases and

^r Pat. 6 Edw. II.

Wallops, is now the property of the Earl of Portsmouth. The manor of Blomer, in this parish, was formerly in the Hampdens, afterwards in the Claytons, and is now the property of the Earl of Chesterfield.

In the parish church are monuments for the families of Serjeant, Mayne, and Vanhattem. The south door has a very curious Norman arch^a.

The great tithes of this parish were formerly appropriated to the Priory of Godstow: when the act for inclosing this parish passed in 1802, it appeared that the vicar was entitled to a portion of the great tithes, and that Matthew Raper esq. the Rev. William Goodall, and George Franklin esq. were entitled to the remainder, excepting those of the hamlet of *Upton*; the great tithes were directed to be apportioned, and allotments of land made in lieu of them to the several proprietors; Mr. Serjeant's impropriate tithes were to remain unaltered, but he was at liberty to accept a corn-rent; the vicar had 40 acres allotted to him for his glebe, and a corn-rent in lieu of tithes: the vicarage is in the gift of the crown. *Ford*, a hamlet of this parish, had formerly a chapel of ease, which has been destroyed. There is an engraved portrait of John Bigg, an eccentric character, who was a native and inhabitant of this parish, and commonly called the Dinton Hermit. In his younger days he was clerk to Simon Mayne the regicide, who acted as a justice of the peace: for many years before his death, which happened in 1696, he lived in a cave under ground. His method of mending his clothes, which he never changed, was by fastening fresh cloth or leather over the decayed parts: one of his shoes thus mended, till the leather became of more than tenfold thickness, is in Mr. Goodall's possession, the other is in the Bodleian library at Oxford.

DORNEY, in the hundred and deanery of Burnham, lies two miles and a half nearly west of Eton. The manor was parcel of the possessions of Burnham abbey, and afterwards in the Garrard family. It is now the seat of Sir Charles Harcourt Palmer bart. His ancestor, Sir James Palmer knt. gentleman of the Privy Chamber to King Charles I. married the daughter and heir of Sir William Garrard, who died in 1607. Sir Philip Palmer knt. son of Sir James, was cup-bearer to King Charles II. On the death of Sir Thomas Palmer bart. of Wingham, in Kent, which happened in 1725, without issue, Charles Palmer esq. of Dorney, succeeded to the title. In the church is the monument of Sir William Garrard above-mentioned.

Sir C. H. Palmer is impropriator of the great tithes, which formerly belonged to Burnham abbey, and patron of the donative.

^a See p. 487.

The learned bishop Montagu was born at Dorney, about the year 1577, his father being then minister of the parish.

DOURTON, in the hundred of Ashendon and deanery of Waddeston, lies about six miles north of Thame, in Oxfordshire. The manor was anciently in the Beauchamps of Hacche, afterwards in the family of Ferrars, of Groby. It was at a later period the property, and a seat of the Dormers. It is now the seat of Sir John Aubrey bart. who purchased the house and manor in 1774, of the Mitchells, who had been preceded by the Berties. A more considerable estate in this parish was purchased by Sir John Aubrey in 1783, of Sir Clement Cottrell Dormer. Walter Giffard, Earl of Buckingham, gave the great tithes of this parish to Nutley abbey; they now belong to Christ-Church College in Oxford. The patronage of the donative, which is consolidated with Ashendon, is in the dean and chapter. Dourton was originally only a chapel of ease to Chilton; it is now parochial.

DRAYTON-BEAUCHAMP, in the hundred of Cotflow and deanery of Murefley, lies about six miles east of Aylesbury, near the road to Tring. The manor was anciently in the Maignons, from whom it passed to the Beauchamps and Cobhams. Sir John Cobham gave it to King Edward III. who in the year 1364 granted it, together with the hamlet of *Helpsthorp*, to his shield-bearer Thomas Cheney, or Cheyne. Drayton continued to be one of the chief seats of his descendants, till the death of William Cheyne, Lord Viscount Newhaven, in 1728. The manor of Drayton-Beauchamp was sold by Lord Newhaven's representatives to the Gumleys, about the year 1730, and is now the property of Lady Robert Manners: the manor-house has been pulled down.

In the parish church is a brass of one of the Cheynes, who died in 1375, in armour, with a mail gorget, most probably Thomas Cheyne abovementioned. Browne Willis's notes speak of another tomb, on which the figure of a woman only remained, with the date 1468, which tradition affirms to have been that of Sir John Cheyne. In the chancel is a sumptuous monument of white marble, by Woodman, in memory of Lord Newhaven, with an upright figure of the deceased in a large flowing peruke; Lady Newhaven is represented sitting. In the north window of the nave are eight of the apostles in stained glass.

The patronage of the rectory has been always annexed to the manor. Hooker, the celebrated ecclesiastical writer, was rector of Drayton-Beauchamp, in 1584. At *Helpsthorp*, a hamlet in this parish, was a chapel of ease, which has been destroyed.

DRAYTON-PASSELEW or PARSLow, in the hundred of Cotflow and deanery of Murefley, lies about five miles nearly to the east of Winslow. In the reigns of King Henry the First and Second, the manor belonged to the Passelews, from whom the parish takes its name, and afterwards to the monastery of Woburn. In 1562 it was granted to Sir John Fortescue; on the death of his descendant, Sir Francis Fortescue bart. in 1720, it passed by a female heir to the Whorwoods. It is now the property of Charles Greenwood esq. whose father married the daughter and sole heir of Thomas Whorwood esq. who died in 1751. The advowson of the rectory was held with the manor by the Fortescues: it is now the property of the Rev. Dr. Lord, who is the present incumbent. This parish has been inclosed by act of parliament, in 1797, when an allotment of land was given in lieu of tithes to the rector.

DUNTON, in the hundred of Cotflow and deanery of Murefley, lies about eight miles north of Aylesbury, and about four miles south-east of Winslow. The manor was in the family of Girund, from the time of the conquest, till the reign of Edward II. The Hampdens became possessed of it about the year 1430. In or about the year 1729, Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough, purchased it of that family: by her bequest it devolved to her grandson, John Spencer, grandfather of Earl Spencer, who is the present proprietor, and patron of the rectory.

EDGCOT, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies about eight miles east of Bicester, in Oxfordshire, and about eleven miles north-west of Aylesbury. The manor was anciently in the Giffards, Earls of Buckingham: as early as the reign of Henry III. it was in the Englefields. Upon the attainder of Sir Francis Englefield, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, it was granted to two persons, who immediately conveyed it to the Dormer family. About the year 1716, John Dormer esq. sold it to the celebrated physician and poet, Sir Samuel Garth, whose daughter brought it in marriage to the Boyles. In 1795 it was purchased of their representatives, by the present proprietor Joseph Bullock esq. of Caversfield, who is patron of the rectory.

EDLESBOROUGH, in the hundred of Cotflow and deanery of Murefley, lies on the borders of Bedfordshire, under the Chiltern hills, near the ancient Ickeneld-Street; about four miles and a half south-west of Dunstable. The manor belonged in the reign of Henry III. to the Blounts, ancestors of the Lords Montjoy: in the fourteenth century it was in the family of Bård. From the Dormers, who were possessed of it as early as the year 1616, it passed by a female heir to

the Stanhopes, and is now the property of the Earl of Chesterfield, who inherits also from the Dormers the manors of Dagnall and Hudnall, both in this parish. Hudnall had belonged to the neighbouring monastery of Atheridge; Dagnall had been in the Brocas family. George Whitfield esq. gives a deputation for the manor of Pinks, in Dagnall.

The manor of Horton, in this parish, was in the Brocas family, from the year 1400 to 1663, about which time it was sold to the Theeds: in 1716 it was purchased by the family of Hall, from whom it passed to the present proprietor, Christopher Johnson esq. The manor of Botelers passed, about the year 1350, by a female heir from the family whose name it bears, to the Ruffords; in 1610 it was in the Langford family, who were succeeded by the Kidgells and Brewsters: it is now the property of Mrs. Catherine Moyer, spinster, by inheritance from the family last mentioned. The manor of Bates, in Edlesborough, which had been long attached to that of the neighbouring parish of Eaton-Bray, in Bedfordshire², is the property of William Beckford esq. of Fonthill.

The manor of Cawdwells, in this parish, was granted to Sir William Paget, in 1544. It was afterwards successively in the families of Skipwith, Sankye, Pigott, and Bruges. In 1701 it was sold, together with the manors of Fitz-Hugh³ and Bowells, which had been in the same families, to Mr. William Chew, of Dunstable, who bequeathed them to trustees, for the support of a free-school in that town, and other charitable purposes. Another manor in Edlesborough was part of the estate of Thomas Chaucer esq. son of the poet, who married the heiress of the Burghersts. Alice Chaucer brought it in marriage to William De la Pole, Duke of Suffolk; his son, John Duke of Suffolk, gave it to the dean and chapter of Windsor, with the king's licence, in 1480.

The parish church of Edlesborough, a handsome Gothic structure, with a small spire, forms a conspicuous object, being placed on an insulated hill, which has the appearance of having been an ancient fortress. In the chancel are some brasses of a large size, among which is that of Sir John Swynshide, rector of Edlesborough, who died in 1390: in the north chancel or Rufford's aisle, are some tombs of the family of Rufford. The Earl of Bridgewater is patron of the vicarage, and impropiator of the great tithes, which belonged formerly to the monks of the Charter-house. The parish register records the burial of Michael Fenn, at the great age of 124, April 21, 1675.

² See the account of the proprietors of that manor, p. 79. Bates has been attached to the manor of Eaton-Bray, since the time of Sir Reginald Bray, and probably at a much earlier period.

³ The manor of Fitz-Hugh was so called from a family of that name, who possessed it in the fourteenth century.

Northall, Dagnall, Horton, and Hudnall, are hamlets of this parish: at *Dagnall* was a chantry chapel, dedicated to All Saints. Part of *Ringsball* is also in the parish of *Edlesborough*, and two houses in *St. Margaret's*, a hamlet of *Ivinghoe*.

ELLESBOROUGH, in the hundred of *Aylesbury* and deanery of *Wendover*, lies under the *Chiltern hills*, about two miles and a half south-west of *Wendover*.

The *Pakington* family claimed the paramount lordship of this parish, as having belonged to their ancestor, Lord Chief Justice *Baldwin*, and before him, to the families of *Cantilupe, Zouche, and De la Pole*: this claim was given up when a farm in the parish was purchased of the *Pakingtons* in 1770, by the *Russel* family, in the description of whose property in this parish the manors of *Zouches* and *Poles* are enumerated.

The manor of *Checkers*, in *Ellesborough*, took its name from one of its ancient lords, *John de Scaccariis*, (or of the *Exchequer*,) from whose family it passed to the *Hawtreys*, and from the *Hawtreys* to a younger branch of the *Crokes*. *John Thurbane*, serjeant at law, became possessed of it in consequence of his marriage with a co-heiress of *Sir Robert Croke*. *Joanna*, the sole heiress of *Serjeant Thurbane*, married the gallant *Col. Rivett*, who received his death's wound at the battle of *Malplaquet*, after returning to the field from which he had before been carried off as dead. His widow married *John Russel esq.* third son of *Sir William Russel bart.* great grandfather of *Sir George Russel* the late proprietor of *Checkers*, whose grandfather, *Mr. Charles Russel*, married *Mary Joanna Cutts Rivett*, the only child of his mother-in-law by her first husband. The old mansion, called *Checkers*, situated in a very romantic spot, amidst hills covered with beech and other trees, was built by the *Hawtreys*, whose arms are in the hall windows. In this house are some good family portraits, among which are *Oliver Cromwell*, from whom the *Russels* were lineally descended^b, *Lady Claypoole*, and other persons connected with the family. *Sir George Russel*, the last heir male of the *Russels* of *Chippingham*, in *Cambridgeshire*, died on the 25th of April 1804; his estates devolved to his aunt, *Mrs. Mary Russel*, with remainder to her cousin-german, the *Rev. John Russel Greenhill D.D.* *Checkers* is now the property and seat of *Robert Greenhill esq.* to whom it has been given up by his father and cousin. The manor of *Grove* or *Seyton* was successively in the families of *Egleton, Horton* and *Bristow*. It was the property of the late *Sir George Russel*, whose brother purchased it of the *Bristows*. The manor of *Mordaunts* at *Bockmer-end* in this parish, belonged also to the late *Sir George Russel*. The reputed manor of *Apsley* in this parish, belonged to the *Sheppards* of *Rolrich*, in *Oxfordshire*; it was afterwards in the

^b Noble's Memoirs of the Cromwells.

Ledwells; John Mackanefs esq. barrister at law, having purchased it of that family, has lately sold it to James Humphreys esq. of Lincoln's Inn.

In the parish church, which, like that of Edleborough, stands on a small insulated eminence, resembling an ancient fortress, are some monuments of the Crokes. In 1803 an act of parliament passed for the inclosure of this parish, when allotments of land were assigned to the rector, who was only entitled to a moiety of a considerable portion of the great tithes, and to Joseph Wells gent. who had the impropriation of the other moiety: the remainder of the tithes belonged for the most part to the proprietors of the lands from which they issued; an allotment was made to trustees for the poor; the Woodlands still continue titheable. The Rev. Mr. Wells, brother of the impropiator, is patron and incumbent.

Many Roman coins have been found in this parish; the castle-hill has been spoken of elsewhere^c.

EMBERTON, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies about four miles north of Newport-Pagnell, on the road to Olney. The manor belonged successively to the baronial families of Paganell and Somery, under whom it was held by the Olneys and Pakenhams. From the latter it passed by a female heir to the Tyringhams, of whom it was purchased, about the year 1670, by the Coppins of Market-Street, in Bedfordshire. In 1727 the Coppins sold it to John Gore esq. from whom it passed by marriage to the family of Mellish. It is now, by a late purchase, the property of William Praed esq. representative in the female line of its former proprietors, the Tyringhams: Mr. Praed is patron of the rectory. This parish has been inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1798, when an allotment of land was given to the rector in lieu of tithes; the parish was then estimated to contain 1300 acres.

ETON, in the hundred of Stoke and deanery of Burnham, is separated from Windfor, in Berkshire, by the river Thames, being 22 miles distant from London: it is chiefly noted for its college, founded by King Henry VI. in the year 1440, for a provost, ten priests, four clerks, six choristers, twenty-five poor grammar-scholars, and twenty-five poor men. Henry Sever was the first provost; his successor was William Waynfleet, founder of Magdalen College, in Oxford. This foundation was particularly excepted in the act for the dissolution of colleges and chantries, in the reign of King Edward VI. Its establishment, however, has been somewhat altered, and it consists now of a provost, seven fellows, two school-masters, two conducts, seven clerks, seventy scholars, and ten choristers, besides inferior officers and ser-

^c See p. 493.

vants. The annual election of scholars to King's College, in Cambridge, founded by the same monarch, takes place about the end of July, or the beginning of August, when twelve of the head boys are put on the roll to succeed at King's College, as vacancies happen. The average number of vacancies is about nine in two years : at 19 years of age the scholars are superannuated. Eton College sends two scholars to Merton College, in Oxford, where they are denominated post-masters, and has a few exhibitions of 21 guineas each, for its superannuated scholars, towards whose assistance Mr. Chamberlayne, a late fellow, has bequeathed an estate of 80*l. per annum* after the death of his widow. The scholars elected to King's College succeed to fellowships at three years standing. The independant scholars at Eton, commonly called *Oppidans*, are very numerous, this school having been long ranked among the first public seminaries in this or any other country. The average number of independant scholars, for some years past, has been from 300 to 350 : when Dr. Barnard was master, under whom the school was more flourishing perhaps than at any other period, the number at one time exceeded 520. To enumerate all the Etonians who have become eminent in the republic of letters, or have distinguished themselves as lawyers, statesmen, or divines, would be no easy task. From Harwood's *Alumni Etonenses*, which is confined to such scholars as have been on the foundation, may be collected, among others, the names of bishop Fleetwood, bishop Pearson, the learned John Hales, Dr. Stanhope, Sir Robert Walpole, and the late Earl Camden. Among such celebrated characters as have received their education at Eton, but not on the foundation, more immediately occur to notice the names of Outred the mathematician, Boyle^d the philosopher, Waller the poet, the late Earl of Chatham, Horace, Earl of Orford, Gray, West, and the late learned Jacob Bryant. A considerable number of the literary characters of the present day, as well as of those who are highly distinguished in public life, have received their education at this celebrated seminary of learning.

Before we dismiss the subject of Eton School, the ancient custom of the procession of the scholars *ad montem* may be thought not undeserving of notice. This procession is made every third year on Whit-Tuesday, to a *tumulus* near the Bath road, which has acquired the name of Salt-hill, by which also the neighbouring inns have been long known. The chief object of the celebrity is to collect money for *salt*, as the phrase is, from all persons present, and it is exacted even from passengers travelling the road. The scholars who collect the money are called salt-

^d Boyle was offered the provostship, but declined accepting it ; upon which Waller was actually appointed, but the chancellor refused to set his seal to the appointment, it being contrary to the Statutes (although there had been several precedents for it) that a layman should hold the office.

bearers, and are dressed in rich silk habits. Tickets inscribed with some motto^e, by way of pass-word, are given to such persons as have already paid for *salt*, as a security from any further demands. This ceremony has been frequently honoured with the presence of his majesty and the royal family, whose liberal contributions, added to those of many of the nobility and others, who have been educated at Eton, and purposely attend the meeting, have so far augmented the collections, that it has been known to amount to more than 800*l*. The sum so collected is given to the senior scholar who is going off to Cambridge, for his support at the university. It would be in vain perhaps to endeavour to trace the origin of all the circumstances of this singular custom, particularly that of collecting money for *salt*, which has been in use from time immemorial. The procession itself seems to have been coeval with the foundation of the college, and it has been conjectured with much probability, that it was that of the *bairn* or *boy-bishop*^f. We have been informed, that originally it took place on the 6th of December, the festival of St. Nicholas the patron of children; being the day on which it was customary at Salisbury, and in other places where the ceremony was observed, to elect the *boy-bishop*, from among the children belonging to the cathedral^g. In the voluminous collections relating to antiquities bequeathed by Mr. Cole, (who was himself of Eton and King's College,) to the British Museum, is a note, in which it is asserted, that the ceremony of the *bairn*, or *boy-bishop*, was to be observed by charter, and that Geoffrey Blythe, bishop of Litchfield, who died in 1530, bequeathed several ornaments to King's College and Eton, for the dress of the *bairn-bishop*. From whence the industrious antiquary procured this information, which if correct would end all conjecture on the subject, does not appear. We cannot learn that there are any documents in support of it at King's College or at Eton, and the prerogative court of Canterbury, as well as the registries of the dioceses of London, Chester, and Litchfield, where alone there is any probability of its being registered, have been searched in vain for bishop Blythe's will. Within the memory of persons now living, it was a part of the ceremony at the *montem*, that a boy dressed in a clerical habit, with a wig, should read prayers. The custom of hunting a ram, by the Eton scholars, on Saturday in the election week, supposed to have been an ancient tenure, was abolished by the late provost, Dr. Cooke.

Eton College consists of two quadrangles. In the first is the school, the chapel, and lodgings for the masters and scholars. The other is occupied by the library,

^e One of the most appropriate perhaps, was "*Mos pro lege*." ^f This part of the ceremony has been supposed by some to have originated from an ancient practice among the friars of selling consecrated salt.

^g This mock dignity lasted till Innocents day; during the intermediate time the boy performed various episcopal functions, and if it happened that he died before it was expired, he was buried with the same ceremonials which were used at the funeral of a bishop.

the provost's lodgings, and the apartments of the fellows. The chapel, as far as relates to its external appearance, is a very handsome Gothic structure; the inside has none of that ornamental architecture, so much admired in King's College chapel at Cambridge, to which this has sometimes been compared, but is quite plain, and has been much disfigured by some injudicious alterations, which were made in the beginning of the last century, when several of the old monuments were removed, and others concealed behind the wainscot then placed at the east end, by which also was hid a Gothic altarpiece, of stone, enriched with niches. The whole length of the chapel is 175 feet, including the ante-chapel, which is 62 feet in length. Among the eminent persons who lie buried in this chapel, are Richard Lord Grey of Wilton, Henchman to King Henry VIII.; John Longland, bishop of Lincoln, confessor to that monarch; Sir Henry Saville, the learned warden of Merton, and provost of this college, who founded the Savillian professorships of astronomy and geometry at Oxford; Sir Henry Wotton, an eminent ambassador and statesman, who was also provost of Eton; Francis Rowse, a distinguished writer among the puritans, and one of the lords of Cromwell's upper-house, who died provost of Eton in 1658; Dr. Allestree, provost of Eton, (an eminent royalist,) who built the new or upper school, with the cloisters beneath, at the expence of 1500*l.* and died in 1680; and Nathaniel Ingelo, who died in 1683. The monuments of some of the above-mentioned persons are not now to be seen. Sir Henry Wotton's tomb has the following singular inscription:

“ Hic jacet hujus sententiæ primus auctor—
Disputandi pruritus fit ecclesiarum scabies.”
“ Nomen alias quære.”

Dr. Ingelo was author of a romance, called Bentevolio and Urania, which is alluded to in the following singular passage of his epitaph.—“ *Cujus stylus, dum dramate pietatem ad Christi morem suaviter insinuat, an ingeniosus an patheticus sit magis, vicissim acriter et diu contenditur; quâ lite nondum sopitâ, feliciter quiescit autor eruditus beatam præstolans resurrectionem, donec decisionis dies supremus illuxerit.*” In the ante-chapel is a statue of the founder, by Bacon, erected in 1786, the sum of 600*l.* having been bequeathed for that purpose, by the Rev. Edward Betham, fellow of the college, who died in 1783; and a monument of the young earl of Waldegrave, who was drowned when at Eton school in 1794. In the school-yard is another statue of the founder, in bronze, erected at the expence of Provost Godolphin. In the cemetery belonging to the college is the tomb of the learned John Hales.

The

The library of Eton College contains a very large and valuable collection of books, having been from time to time enriched by munificent bequests, particularly by the library of Dr. Waddington, bishop of Chester, consisting chiefly of divinity; that of Mr. Mann, master of the charter-house; that of Richard Topham esq. formerly keeper of his Majesty's records in the Tower, chiefly remarkable for its fine editions of the Classics; and that of the late Anthony Storer esq. containing a great number of early printed and rare books, in various departments of literature, a fine set of Aldus's, and many scarce editions of the Classics, particularly a very rare copy of Macrobius, and a large collection of engraved portraits and other valuable prints, exclusive of what had been bound up at a great expence, with various historical and topographical works, which formed part of his library. Mr. Topham's collection comprises also some very valuable engravings, drawings by the old masters, medals, &c. Mr. Hetherington bequeathed the sum of 500l. to the college, to be expended in books.

In the provost's lodgings are portraits of Queen Elizabeth, Sir Thomas Smith, a learned statesman, who was provost of the college, Sir Robert Walpole, Provost Stewart, clerk of the closet to King Charles I. Sir Henry Saville, Sir Henry Wotton, Francis Rowse, and several other provosts of the college: here is also a picture, said to be a portrait of Jane Shore.

In 1452, the college had a charter for a market on Wednesdays, at Eton, with considerable privileges^a, but it has been long disused. Two fairs were granted by the charter of 1444: one for the three days following Ash-Wednesday; the other for six days following the 13th of August. There is now only one fair held on Ash-Wednesday.

The manor of Eton was acquired by the college in the reign of Edward IV. of the Lovel family, who inherited it through female heirs from the families of Fitz-Other, Hodenge, Huntercombe, and Scudamore. The manor of Eton-Stockdales *cum* Cole-Norton, in this parish, was for several centuries in the Windfor family. During the last century it has been successively in the families of Ballard, Waffell, and Buckle, and is now the property of John Penn esq. of Stoke-Park. The parish church of Eton, called in ancient records Eton-Gildables, having been suffered to fall to decay, the inhabitants are permitted to attend divine service in the college chapel. The provost of Eton is always rector, and has archidiaconal jurisdiction within the parish. There is a chapel of ease in the town, served by one of the conducts of the college: it was built for the use of the inhabitants, by William Hetherington, the munificent benefactor to the blind and poor of other descriptions, who had been one of the fellows of Eton.

^a See Cart. 27-39 Hen. VI.

FARNHAM-ROYAL, in the hundred and deanery of Burnham, lies about two miles north of Slough. The manor was, at the time of the Norman Survey, in the family of Verdon, afterwards Barons Fernival, and passed from them by female heirs to the Talbots, Earls of Shrewsbury. It was held by grand serjeanty by the service of finding a glove for the king's right hand, on the day of his coronation, and supporting his right arm that day whilst he held the sceptre. In the year 1542, Francis Earl of Shrewsbury gave this manor to King Henry VIII. in exchange for other lands, reserving to himself and his descendants, the honourable office just mentioned. King Charles I. sold the manor of Farnham-Royal to certain citizens of London: after this it was many years in the family of Coke, descendants of the celebrated Sir Edward Coke, who resided in the neighbouring parish of Stoke-Poges, and it is probable purchased this manor, which, about the year 1751^a, was sold by Thomas Coke, Earl of Leicester, to the Godolphin family, and is now, by bequest of the late Lord Godolphin, the property of Lord Francis Godolphin Osborne, second son of the late Duke of Leeds.

In the parish church is a brass plate, in memory of Eustace Mascall, clerk of the works to Cardinal Wolsey, at the building of St. Frediswide^b, in Oxford, and for seventeen years chief clerk of accounts for all the buildings of King Henry VIII. within twenty miles of London. He died in 1567, being then *pistell-reader* in Windsor-Castle. In this church lies buried Dr. Chandler, bishop of Durham, without any memorial. The advowson of the rectory was given by the crown to Eton College, about the year 1720. Mrs. Elizabeth Hetherington gave the sum of 140l. towards the foundation of a charity-school in this parish in 1777. David Salter, in 1664 gave 17l. *per annum* to buy loaves and white herrings for the poor, and two shillings for a pair of white kid gloves for the rector, on the first Sunday in Lent, as long as the world should last.

Scar-Green and *Hedgerley-Dean*, are hamlets in this parish, maintaining their own poor. There are some large and deep entrenchments at Hedgerley Dean, from whence a ditch runs westward to East-Burnham. The tradition of the neighbourhood is, that a battle was fought here between the Danes and Saxons.

FAWLEY, in the hundred of Desborough and deanery of Wycombe, lies on the borders of Oxfordshire, about three miles north of Henley, and about seven miles west of Great-Marlow. The manor was in the Sackvilles from the time of the Norman conquest till about the year 1400, after which it passed by female heirs, to

^a The Coke family appointed game-keepers for this manor till 1751. Francis Godolphin was the first of that family who appointed a game-keeper in 1752.

^b Meaning Christ-Church College.

the families of Roke and Alford. From the latter it passed, either by descent or purchase, to Sir James Whitlock, an eminent lawyer, one of the justices of the Common Pleas, and father of the celebrated Sir Bulstrode Whitlock, who filled some of the highest departments in the State, during the Protectorate of Cromwell, and is held in much esteem for the accuracy and impartiality of his historical memoirs. Sir James Whitlock died at Fawley in 1632, and lies buried in the parish church, where there is a handsome monument to his memory. In 1642, Fawley Court, then the seat of Sir Bulstrode Whitlock, was occupied by a large party of the king's troops, under the command of Sir John Byron: the soldiers, in spite of their commander's orders to abstain from such outrages, destroyed the furniture, books, title-deeds, and many valuable MSS. collected by Sir Bulstrode and his father, rendering the house unfit for the future residence of its learned owner, who died at his seat in Wiltshire in the year 1675, and was buried at Fawley on the 6th of August: there is no memorial for him in the church. His son sold the manor of Fawley about the year 1680, to Col. William Freeman, who dying in 1708, bequeathed this estate to his nephew, John Cook, who assumed the name of Freeman, and was ancestor of the present proprietor, Strickland Freeman esq. who is also patron of the rectory. The manor-house, called Fawley-Court, which is situated at a distance from the village on the banks of the Thames, was built in 1684, after a design of Sir Christopher Wren. In the gallery are some portraits of the families of Whitlock and Freeman.

An estate in this parish, now the property of Thomas Stonor esq. of Stonor, in Oxfordshire, has been in his family more than three centuries.

The parish church was repaired and fitted up in 1748, at the expence of John Freeman esq. then lord of the manor. The pews, pulpit, altar, and font, were brought from the chapel at Canons, the magnificent seat of James, Duke of Chandos, which had been pulled down and sold piece-meal the preceding year.

FINGEST, in the hundred of Desborough and deanery of Wycombe, was anciently called Tynhurst or Tinghurst: it lies about seven miles west of High-Wycombe, and about the same distance north-west of Marlow. The manor belonged anciently to the abbey of St. Alban's: by an agreement which took place in 1163, it was given up to the bishops of Lincoln, who made use of the manor-house as their occasional residence: in 1547, bishop Holbeach surrendered it, with other manors, to the crown. In 1549 it was granted to the Duke of Somerset, who, two years afterwards, exchanged it, with the church of Wells, for an estate which had belonged to the prebend of Dulting-Court, in that cathedral, since which time this

* Langley's History of the hundred of Desborough.

manor has been held on lease under the prebendary, who is patron of the rectory. The lease, which appears to have been many years in the family of Ferrers^d, and afterwards in that of Dorrell, is now vested in Owen Williams esq. M. P. of Temple-House, in the parish of Bisham.

The tower of the parish church is square and massy, with plain circular windows; the other parts of the structure are of later date.

The manor, or manor-farm of Cadmore-end, belonged to the Tippings, and is now the property of the Rev. Philip Wroughton, of Woolley Park, in Berkshire, in right of his wife Mary Anne, niece and heiress of the late Bartholomew Tipping esq.

FOXCOTE, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies about two miles north-east of Buckingham. The manor was anciently in the family of Girund, who, in 1198, conveyed it to the De la Hayes, from whom, (about the year 1350) it passed by a female heir to the Ayotes, and from them in like manner to the family of Purefoy. The Dentons became possessed of it about 1480: in 1544 they surrendered it to the king by a forced exchange: in 1557 it was granted to Thomas Smith, and within the course of a century, passed successively to the families of Cleaver, Philips, and Hunt. In 1639, it was purchased by Edward Grenville esq. who nearly rebuilt the manor-house, and made it his residence. On failure of issue, this manor devolved to the elder branch of the family, and is now the property of the Marquis of Buckingham, who is patron of the rectory. The manor-house is in the occupation of a farmer.

FULMERE, in the hundred of Stoke and deanery of Burnham, lies about six miles south-east of Beaconsfield, and about four miles west of Uxbridge, in Middlesex. The manor was purchased by Sir John Molins, of William de Montacute, in or before the year 1335^e: at a later period it was in the Darells. The grand-children of Sir Marmaduke Darell, who died in 1631, having squandered away their patrimony, were obliged to sell this manor to their servants, of whom it was purchased by Judge Jefferys. It is now the property of the Duke of Portland, whose ancestor bought it of Mr. Dives, son-in-law of the judge, about the year 1706.

Fulmer Place, the seat of the Darells, has been long ago pulled down; its site is occupied by a modern villa, belonging to William Frogatt esq. attorney-at-law.

^d Thomas Ferrers, who died in 1646, is called on his tomb, lord of the manor. The same family appointed game-keepers for the manor so lately as 1737. ^e See Pat. 9 Edw. III.

Fulmer was made a separate parish and rectory, in the reign of King Edward VI. being endowed with the great tithes by the dean and canons of Windfor^f, in whom the patronage is vested; it was before only a chapel of ease to Datchet. The present parish church was built in the year 1610, at the expence of Sir Marmaduke Darell. It contains nothing remarkable, excepting a handsome monument for the founder, who is represented in gilt armour; his lady, who lies on his right side, is in a black hood. Sir Marmaduke Darell is stiled in his epitaph, servant to Queen Elizabeth in her wars by sea and land, and cofferer to King James and King Charles I.

GOTHURST, or as it is now called, GAYHURST, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies about three miles from Newport-Pagnell, near the road to Northampton. The manor, at the time of the Norman Survey, was held under the bishop of Baieux, by Robert de Nodariis, or Nowers, whose family not long afterwards became possessed of it in their own right. On the death of the last heir male in 1408, it passed by marriage to Sir Richard Neville, and from the Nevilles, by another female heir, to the family of Mulso, about the middle of the sixteenth century. The only daughter of William Mulso, who died in 1601, married Sir Everard Digby, who forfeited his life for being concerned in that diabolical conspiracy, the gunpowder plot. He guarded in some measure against the consequences of failure and detection, by making over his estates in trust for his infant son, by which means he secured them from confiscation: this son, the celebrated Sir Kenelm Digby, was born at Gothurst in 1603. John Digby, only surviving son of Sir Kenelm, left two daughters, married to John Conway and Richard Mostyn esqs. who having procured an act of parliament for that purpose, sold Gothurst, in 1704, to the son of Lord Keeper Wrighte. It is now the property and seat of Miss Wrighte, only daughter and heir of the late George Wrighte esq. The manor-house was built in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and has undergone little alteration as to its external appearance; the greater part of the inside has been modernized. Some portraits of the Digby family still remain here; among which is that of Sir Everard, and one inscribed John Digby, which Mr. Pennant conjectures nevertheless to have been meant for Sir Kenelm in his younger days, but there seems no good reason for supposing why it should not have been his son John Digby. In the hall are two bronze busts of Venetia Lady Digby, wife of Sir Kenelm, much admired for their workmanship. There is a beautiful miniature of this lady, by Peter Oliver, at Strawberry-Hill, another of Sir Kenelm and his lady, in one piece, after Vandyke, and a singularly fine one of Lady Lucy, her mother, by Isaac Oliver; which were

^f History of Windfor, p. 115.

purchased by the late Earl of Orford, of Mr. Watkin Williams, and had been found in the garret of an old house in Wales. At Gothurst are also several portraits of the present proprietor's family, among which are Lord Keeper Wrighte and Sir Joseph Jekyl, Master of the Rolls. The parish church, in which was an ancient French inscription for one of the family of Nowers, was pulled down in 1725: the present building was completed in 1728, with a sum of money bequeathed for that purpose, by Mr. Wrighte, who purchased the manor. In the church are whole length figures in white marble, of the Lord Keeper in his robes, and his son, George Wrighte esq. clerk of the crown, in his official dress. An act of Parliament passed in the year 1712, for ascertaining the glebe, tithes, and profits of the rectory: in 1736 it was consolidated with Stoke-Goldington; Miss Wrighte is patroness.

GRANBOROUGH, in the hundred of Ashendon, lies two miles to the south of Winslow. The manor belonged formerly to the abbey of St. Alban's, it is now the property of William Selby esq. whose ancestor, Mr. Lowndes, became possessed of it about the beginning of the last, or the end of the preceding century. The church, which was originally a chapel to Winslow, was pulled down during the civil war, by Cornelius Holland the regicide: it was rebuilt after the restoration of King Charles II. The great tithes of this parish, which is within the diocese of London and archdeaconry of St. Alban's, were formerly appropriated to the abbot and convent of St. Alban's; when the parish was inclosed, under an act of Parliament passed in 1796, it appeared that Lady Fermanagh was entitled to a portion of the great tithes, and the Rev. Mr. Milward to another portion, as vicar of East-Claydon: an allotment of land was assigned to Lady Fermanagh, and corn-rents to the vicars of Granborough and East-Claydon. The vicarage of Granborough is in the gift of the crown.

GRENDON-UNDERWOOD, in the hundred of Ashendon and deanery of Waddeston, lies about eight miles from Aylesbury, near the road to Bicester. The manor was anciently in the baronial family of St. Amand, who had a seat here, and continued possessed of the estate for several generations. Almeric de St. Amand, of Grendon, was one of the god-fathers of King Edward I.^s About the year 1795, the manor of Grendon was sold by William Pigott esq. of Doderhall, in the neighbouring parish of Quainton, whose family had possessed it nearly three centuries, to the present proprietor, the Rev. G. H. Jervoise Purefoy, of Shalleston, in this county.

^s Kennet's Parochial Antiquities, p. 224.

In the parish church are monuments of several of the Pigott family; Richard Viscount Say and Sele, who died in 1781, and his lady, Christabella, who died in 1789, at the great age of 94. This lady, who was remarkable for preserving all the vivacity of youth, and joining in the amusements of the young till almost the latest period of her life, resided at Doderhall, which she possessed by jointure from her second husband, John Pigott esq. She was the last of the ancient family of the Tyrrells of this county, being daughter of Sir Thomas Tyrrell bart. by whose death the title became extinct.

Mr. Pigott is patron of the rectory. The parish has been inclosed by an act of Parliament, which passed in the year 1769, when an allotment of land was assigned to the rector, in lieu of tithes, but not to affect his right to tithes of the Woodlands.

Anne, Lady Pigott, founded a charity-school at this place for six children.

GROVE, in the hundred of Cotflow and deanery of Murefley, is a very small village, containing only three houses. It lies on the borders of Bedfordshire, by the side of the Grand Junction Canal, nearly three miles from Leighton-Bufard. The manor was successively in the families of De la Grove, Brook, Loring, Peyvre, and Broughton. In the reign of King Henry VIII. it was in the Dormers, from whom it passed by a female heir to the Stanhopes, and is now the property of the Earl of Chesterfield, who is also patron of the rectory. Divine service is performed only once in three weeks, at the parish church, which is a very small mean building.

HADDENHAM, in the hundred of Aylesbury and deanery of Wendover, lies about seven miles south-west of Aylesbury, and three from Thame, in Oxfordshire. King William the Conqueror demised the manor of Haddenham during his life, to Archbishop Lanfranc, who gave it to Gundulph, bishop of Rochester. On the donor's death it reverted to the crown, and William Rufus, on his accession, demanded 100l. for renewing it, a sum so exorbitant, that the prelates were both astonished, and declared they were not possessed of so large a sum, nor knew how to procure it. Two courtiers, well inclined to all parties, suggested that the manor should be restored to the see, on condition that Gundulph, who was very intelligent and expert in masonry, should, at his own expence, build the castle of Rochester with stone; which proposal was at length accepted on the bishop's being exonerated from further repairs. Ernulph, Gundulph's successor, who is supposed to have been the author of the Textus Roffensis, where this is related, supposed that the cost amounted to 60l^h. After this transaction, it appears that the manor of Haddenham was granted

^h See Archæologia, Vol. VI.

by William Rufus, to the prior and convent of St. Andrew, at Rochester, to whom it was confirmed by King Henry I. with the manor of Cuddington, as an appendageⁱ. In 1294, the monks procured a charter for a market on Thursdays, at this place^k, but it was discontinued in 1301, in consequence of a law-suit with the bishop of Lincoln, who found that it injured his market at the neighbouring town of Thame: the same charter granted a fair for three days, at the festival of the assumption of the Virgin Mary. After the dissolution of monasteries, this manor continued for some time in the crown: it is now in moieties, one of which belongs to Mrs. Anne Herbert, sister and co-heir of Philip Herbert esq. who died in 1749; the remaining moiety, which passed in marriage with the other co-heir to the late Lord Wenman's father, is now, by bequest, the property of Miss Bertie.

The Grenville family had for many generations an estate in this parish, which acquired the name of Grenville's Manor; it was alienated from the family in the early part of Queen Elizabeth's reign, and having within a few years passed through several hands, was purchased jointly in 1569, by Robert Rose, John Rofs, and Robert Morfe. Grenville-Manor-Place, with a third part of the estate, is still in the descendants of Robert Rose, and Rofs's share, we have been informed, still remains in his family.

The parish church is a large Gothic structure, much out of repair, it contains no monuments of note; there are a few memorials for the family of Saunders. Near the church was a chapel dedicated to the Virgin Mary, of which there are no remains. The great tithes belong to the dean and chapter of Rochester, who are patrons of the vicarage.

HALTON, in the hundred of Aylesbury and deanery of Risborough, lies between two roads leading from Aylesbury to London, nearly five miles from Aylesbury, and about two from Wendover. Archbishop Cranmer sold the manor, which had belonged from time immemorial to the see of Canterbury, to Henry Bradshaw, afterwards Chief Baron of the Exchequer. From him it passed, by an heir female, to the noble family of Fermor, who, about the year 1720, sold it to Sir Francis Dashwood bart. grandfather of Sir John Dashwood King bart. the present proprietor. The manor-house, which for some years past has been the principal residence of Sir J. Dashwood King, is pleasantly situated on the banks of the grand Junction Canal, and under the Chiltern hills.

In the parish church is a brass plate, with the effigies of Chief Baron Bradshaw, who died in 1553. Sir J. Dashwood King is patron of the rectory, which is in the peculiar jurisdiction of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

ⁱ Dugdale's Monast. III. p. 2, 4.

^k Cart. 23 Edw. I.

HAMBLEDEN, in the hundred of Desborough and deanery of Wycombe, is situated in a pleasant valley, about a mile out of the road from Marlow to Henley, at the distance of about six miles from the former, and somewhat more than four from the latter. It had formerly a market on Mondays, granted in 1315 to the Baddlesmeres, with a fair on the festival of St. Bartholomew¹, and confirmed, in 1321, to Hugh Despencer the elder, who had a temporary possession of the manor, during an attainder, which was afterwards reversed. The manor of Hambleden was anciently in the Clares, Earls of Gloucester, from whom it passed, by female heirs, to the families of Baddlesmere, Tibtot, and Scrope. After the death of Emanuel Scrope, Earl of Sunderland, in 1631, it became the property of Thomas Earl Rivers, who married one of his natural daughters. Before the close of the 17th century it was purchased, but not immediately, as it appears^m, of the Rivers family, by Robert Clayton, lord mayor of London in 1680, in whose family it continued till within a few years. The late Sir Robert Clayton bart. gave it by will to his solicitor, R. I. Troward esq. who in 1803 sold the manor, and a considerable part of the estate, to Robert Scott esq. of Danesfield. The manor-house was for many generations a seat of the Scropes. It was rebuilt on a new site about the year 1604, by the last Lord Scrope, of Bolton, who was Lord President of the north, and in 1627, created Earl of Sunderland. It is said that King Charles I. came to this house on the 28th of April 1646, with Dr. Hudson and Mr. Ashburnham, on his road from Oxford to St. Alban's; the house is at present unoccupied.

There is another manor in this parish, called Greenland or Ewden, which was successively in the ancient families of Chowne and Shipwash. From the latter it passed to a younger branch of the Doyleys of Oxfordshire. In 1651 it was sold by Sir John Doyley to Sir Bulstrode Whitlock. After some intermediate alienations, the estate became divided between two co-heiresses. The Rev. Mr. Hinde, who resides at Mill-end, being in possession of one of the moieties in right of his wife, who was widow of the late Richard Lane esq. purchased the other moiety in 1801, of the Rev. Henry Stevens, of Bradfield, in Berks. Mr. Hinde retaining the manor, has since sold Greenland farm, and the site of Greenland-house to Mr. Steers.

Greenland-house was a seat of the Doyleys: in the month of May 1644, being then the property of Sir John Doyley, it was garrisoned for the king, with a view of commanding the passage of the river Thames from Henley and Reading to Londonⁿ. After sustaining a long and severe siege from the parliamentary forces under the command of Major-General Brown, the house having been almost reduced to a heap of ruins^o, the batteries from the opposite side of the river, it was

¹ Cart. 9 Edw. II. .
p. 257.

^m See an epitaph in Langley's History of the hundred of Desborough,
Walker's Historical Discourses, p. 11.

^o Clarendon, 8vo. Edit. II. 529.

surrendered on honourable terms the 11th of July, by its governor, Col. Hawkins. The ground about the farm exhibits the appearance of extensive fortifications and buildings.

In this parish is Parmoor, the seat of John Doyley esq. a descendant of the Doyleys of Greenland-house. This estate belonged formerly to the Knights Hospitallers; it came to the Doyleys by marriage with the family of Saunders. Lady Periam, relict of Sir Robert Doyley, and afterwards wife of Sir William Periam, who died in 1621, bequeathed an estate in this parish to archbishop Laud, to be disposed of at his discretion, for the benefit of some college in Oxford; the archbishop founded with it a fellowship and two scholarships at Baliol College.

In the parish church (a large and handsome Gothic structure) are some memorials of the family of Scrope; an ancient mural monument, without either name or date, which from the arms, and the name of Elizabeth which occur in some verses, appears to have been intended for Thomas Lord Sandys, of the Vine, who married Elizabeth, daughter of George Lord Roos, who died in 1526; and a tablet for Dr. Francis Gregory, rector of Hambleden, who died in 1707; he had been usher of Westminster school, under Dr. Busby, and was author of several school treatises and controversial tracts. In a burial-place belonging to the Doyleys, is a handsome monument for Sir Cope Doyley, who died in 1633, and his wife Martha, "who lived together in inviolated bands of holy wedlock 22 years, and multiplied themselves into five sons and five daughters." The following lines inscribed on the monument were written, probably, by Francis Quarles, who was lady Doyley's brother.

" Ask not me who's buried here,
Go ask the Commons, ask the sheire;
Go ask the church, they'll tell thee who,
As well as blubberd eyes can doe:
Goe ask the herauldes, ask the poore,
Thine eares shall hear enough to ask no more.
Then if thine eye bedewe this sacred urne,
Each drop a pearle will turne
T' adorne his tombe, or if thou canst not vent,
Thou bringst more marble to his monument.

Wouldst thou, reader, draw to life,
The perfect copy of a wife:
Read on, and then redeem from shame,
That lost, that honourable name.
This dust was once in spirit a Jael,
Rebecca in grace, in heart an Abigail;

In works a Dorcas, to the church a Hannah,
 And to her spouse, Sufanna.
 Prudently simple, providently wary,
 To the world a Martha, and to heaven a Mary."

The valuable rectory of Hambleden is in the gift of Sir Matthew Ridley, by the bequest of the late William Colborne esq. of Bath, his lady's uncle, by whom it was purchased a few years ago. James Howell, in a letter to his brother Thomas, (afterwards bishop of Bristol,) written in 1628, and published in his familiar letters, says, that it was then valued at 500*l. per annum*, and better than some bishoprics. He offers his brother the refusal of purchasing the next presentation, which had been given him by Lord Sunderland, in satisfaction for some *arrears*. This nobleman, when he built the present manor-house, gave the old mansion to the rector and his successors. The present rectory-house was built on its site by Dr. Kenrick, in 1724; it stands in a beautiful situation, at some distance from the village and church. The parish register records many births and burials of the families of Doyley and Scrope; the burial of Lord Chief Baron Hen, of Ireland, who died in 1708; and several instances of longevity, among which are four persons who attained to the age of a hundred years or upwards.

GREAT-HAMPDEN, in the hundred of Aylesbury and deanery of Wendover, lies about five miles to the south-west of Wendover. The manor had been for many generations in the ancient family of Hampden, which became extinct in the male line by the death of John Hampden esq. in 1754. This Mr. Hampden, who is called in his epitaph the twenty-fourth lord of the manor in lineal descent, bequeathed it to his cousin, the Hon. Robert Trevor, who took the name of Hampden. It is now the property and occasional residence of his son, Lord Viscount Hampden, whose chief seat is at Glynde, in Suffex. There is a tradition that King Edward III. and the Black Prince once honoured Hampden with a visit, and that whilst the prince and his host were exercising themselves in feats of chivalry, a quarrel arose, in which the prince received a blow on his face, which occasioned him and his royal father to quit the place in great wrath, and to seize on some valuable manors belonging to their host, as a punishment for his rashness. This story gave rise to the following rhimes :

" Tring, Wing, and Ivinghoe,
 Hampden did foregoe,
 For striking of a blow,
 And glad he did escape so."

This

This tradition, like many others of a like nature, will not bear the test of examination; for it appears by record, that neither the manors of Tring, Wing, or Ivinghoe, ever were in the Hampden family. Queen Elizabeth was entertained at Hampden, during one of her progresses, by Griffith Hampden esq. who, for her more commodious access to the house, is said to have cut an avenue through his wood, still called the Queen's gap.

In Hampden-House are several family portraits, some of which are good pictures; none of them are inscribed with names, nor have we been able (by application to the present noble owner) to procure any information concerning them. There is a portrait also of the aged Marquis of Winchester in his robes, and a whole length picture of Oliver Cromwell, with a boy tying his sash. In the parish church are several memorials of the Hampden family, the oldest date is 1493. The monument of John Hampden esq. the last heir male of the family, is ornamented with a medallion, on which is a tree, hung with shields, containing the arms of the Hampdens and their alliances; at the foot of the tree is a representation in basso relievo, of the battle of Chalgrave field, in which John Hampden, the celebrated patriot, received his death's wound: he died about three weeks after the battle, on the 24th of June 1643, and was buried the following day with his ancestors in Hampden church.

Lord Hampden is patron of the rectory, which in 1799 was consolidated with Great Kimble.

LITTLE-HAMPDEN, in the hundred of Aylesbury, lies about four miles south of Wendover, among the woods. It is a separate parish, but its chapel is annexed to the church of Hartwell, which is about seven miles distant. The manor had the same possessors as that of Hartwell, till it was sold about the year 1710, by Sir Thomas Lee, to the Dods of Swallowfield, in Berkshire: it is now the property of the Right Hon. John Trevor, whose father, the late Lord Hampden, purchased it of the representatives of the Dods.

HANSLAPE, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies about five miles north of Stony-Stratford, on the borders of Northamptonshire: it was formerly a market-town. The market, which was on Thursdays, has been long discontinued: it was granted in 1293 to William Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, who at the same time had a grant of a fair at this place, at the festival of St. James, to continue for fifteen days. This fair also has been disused, but there is one on Holy Thursday. The Hanslapes and their representatives the Mauduits, who inherited this manor by a female heir, were of baronial rank, and had the seat of their barony at Castle-

thorp^a, formerly a hamlet of this parish. Robert Lord Mauduit being in rebellion against King John, garrisoned this castle, which was taken and demolished by Foulkes de Brent, on the 18th of December 1215. Lord Mauduit returning to his allegiance in the succeeding reign, repossessed this manor, which he had forfeited, and in 1222 made a park at Hanslape, and had a grant of does to stock it out of the king's forest of Salcey. On the death of William Mauduit, Earl of Warwick, his title and estates devolved to William Beauchamp, who had married his sister and heir : in 1291 he had the king's licence to embattle his manor-house at Hanslape. On the attainder of Thomas Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, the manor of Hanslape was granted, in 1397, to Thomas Mowbray^b, who about that time was created Duke of Norfolk, but being himself attainted within a few months afterwards, it was granted in tail-male to Edward Duke of York^c, who lost his life at the battle of Agincourt ; dying without issue, this manor reverted to the crown. It was occasionally granted to branches of the royal family, and formed part of Queen Elizabeth's revenue before her accession to the throne. In 1663, it was granted in fee to Sir Thomas Tyrrell, one of the justices of the Common Pleas : his son having obtained an act of parliament to vest this manor in trustees for the payment of debts, it was sold about the year 1707, to George Pierrepont, who was created Lord Pierrepont of Hanslape in 1714. Dying without issue, this estate devolved to the Duke of Kingston, and was purchased of the late duke's heirs, by the guardians of the present proprietor, Edward Watts esq. who resides at Hanslape-park.

The manor of Tothall-end, in this parish, belonged anciently to the family of Tothall, and afterwards to the Lanes : it has lately been sold by Sir William Wake bart. who inherited it by female descent from the Lanes, to Mr. Watts, who possesses also by purchase from the Howes, the manors of Stoke and Singleton, which formerly belonged to the Pigot family.

A considerable estate in this parish belonged for several generations to the family of Forster, who had a seat here, which was sold in 1663, by Sir Grey Forster, to Dr. Turner, dean of Canterbury, and afterwards became the residence of William Thurlby, the celebrated lawyer, who purchased it of Dr. Francis Turner, bishop of Ely : it is now a farm-house, the property of Mrs. Lowndes of Abingdon-Street, Westminster.

The parish church was remarkable for its taper spire, which, together with the lofty tower on which it stood, was above 200 feet from the ground, and afforded a very conspicuous object to a large tract of country, in which spires rarely occur. Hanslape spire, which was destroyed by lightning in the month of June 1804, was built in 1409, by Thomas Knight, then rector ; the stone was brought from Ketton,

^a Holinshed.^b Dugdale.^c Pat. 22 Ric. II.

in Rutlandshire: it was octagonal and fluted. The chancel has some remains of Saxon architecture: in Troughton's chapel are some memorials of a family of that name. The rectory, which had been appropriated to Newark college, in Leicester, was given by King Henry VIII. in 1538, together with the advowson of the vicarage, to the Corporation of the city of Lincoln. In 1803, an act of parliament passed for inclosing Salcey-Green and Stocking-Green, in this parish, when an allotment of each was given to the impropiators in lieu of tithes. The parish was inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1778, when an allotment of land was given to the impropiator in lieu of tithes. Hanslope-park and Bosenham-field were not exonerated from tithes by this act.

Lucy Lady Pierrepont founded a school at Hanslope for four children. The benefactions given to this parish by Isabella Barnwell, William Fox, and a person now unknown, consisting of houses and lands, producing a rent of 60*l. per annum*, are vested in feoffees, who distribute the amount among the poor on St. Thomas's-day.

Most of the persons in this parish are employed in the manufacture of lace, which is made here of a very fine quality^c.

HARDMEAD, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies nearly six miles to the north-east of Newport-Pagnell. The manor was anciently in the families of Gifford and Reynes, afterwards for nearly three centuries in the Windsors: having been given to the crown in exchange, it was granted in 1544 to the family of Catesby, of whom it was purchased about the year 1675, by Serjeant Maynard. John Hobart, Earl of Buckinghamshire, whose father had married the serjeant's granddaughter, sold this manor about the year 1751, to Alexander Small esq. of whose family it was purchased in 1792, by the present proprietor, the Earl of Kinnoul.

In the parish church are some memorials of the Catesbys. The advowson of the rectory, which belonged formerly to Merton abbey, has, since the dissolution of monasteries, been annexed to the manor.

HARDWICK, in the hundred of Cotflow and deanery of Muresley, lies about four miles from Aylesbury, on the road to Buckingham. The manor belonged anciently to the family of Newmarch: upon a partition being made between two co-heiresses of that family, the manor became divided into moieties, one of which having been successively in the families of Moels and Ruffell, was sold to William of Wickham, bishop of Winchester, and by him made part of the endowment of his newly founded college, in Oxford: the other moiety passed to the family of Bottreaux, by whom it was sold about the year 1460, to the Brecknocks; and by

^c See p. 482.

them, about the year 1542, to the Lees. Both these estates were held of the king, as of his honor of Berkhamsted.

The manor of Weedon, a considerable hamlet in this parish, was also in the baronial family of Moels, who probably inherited it from that of Newmarch. It was afterwards in the Cobhams. Sir John Cobham gave the manor of Weedon-Hill, in Chesham, and Weedon in the vale, to the crown, in the reign of Edw. III. It is probable that it was, at a subsequent period, granted to the Brecknocks or Lees. The manor of Hardwick *cum* Weedon was purchased in 1801, of Lord Dillon, the representative of the Lee family, by the Marquis of Buckingham. Lillies, at Weedon, which is the manor-place, was the jointure house of Elizabeth, relict of Sir Francis Lee, (afterwards Countess of Lindsey,) who died in 1719: it is now occupied by Edward Nugent esq. The advowson of the rectory is annexed to the New-College estate. In the church are some memorials of the Lees. Hardwick was inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1778, when an allotment of land was assigned to the rector, who was entitled to all the tithes of the parish, except those of certain fields specified in the act. The hamlet of Weedon, containing 1700 acres, was not inclosed till 1801, when an allotment of land was again given to the rector of Hardwick.

HARTWELL, in the hundred of Aylesbury and deanery of Wendover, lies about two miles from Aylesbury, on the road to Thame: it was formerly a hamlet of Stane^d. The manor was in the family of Luton, from the reign of Henry III. to the year 1392, or somewhat later; afterwards in the Hampdens: it is now the property of the Rev. Sir Charles Lee bart. whose ancestor, Sir Thomas Lee, acquired it in marriage with the daughter of Michael Hampden esq. Thomas Lee, great grandson of Sir Thomas, was created a baronet in 1660. The Lees were settled at Moreton, in the neighbouring parish of Dinton, as early as the fifteenth century. Hartwell-house is a spacious old mansion, a part of which was altered and modernized by Sir William Lee, father of the present baronet. The state gallery remains with its ancient furniture, velvet chairs, and gobeline tapestry. In the great dining-room are a few portraits, among which is a fine whole-length of Sir John Suckling, which was supposed by Sir Joshua Reynolds to be by the hand of Cornelius Jansen. There are also some views of the house, which were taken before the alteration.

The manor of West-Orchard, *alias* Seintclare, *alias* Bray, which names seem to denote the families by whom it had been formerly possessed, having been forfeited

^d See Pat. 4 Edw. IV.

by the attainder of Sir Robert Whittingham, was granted in the year 1464 to Sir Thomas Montgomery, and his heirs male^c.

The church was rebuilt by the present baronet's father, Sir William Lee, in imitation of the Gothic style, with two octagonal towers: the roof is richly ornamented with tracery. There is a tablet in memory of some of the Hampden family, particularly Sir Alexander, father of John Hampden the patriot. In the old church were some brass plates, with memorials of the Hampdens. Sir Charles Lee is patron and incumbent of the rectory. The parish has been inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1776, when an allotment of land was assigned to the rector in lieu of tithes.

GREAT-HARWOOD, in the hundred of Cotflow and deanery of Muresley, lies about two miles north of Winslow: it had formerly a market on Wednesdays, granted in 1447 to New-College, in Oxford, together with a fair for three days, at the festival of St. James.

The manor was given by Walter Giffard, Earl of Buckingham, to the priory of Newton-Longueville; on the suppression of which, in 1415, it was granted to John Duke of Bedford: reverting to the crown at his death, it was granted in 1441 to the wardens and scholars of New-College, in Oxford, who are patrons of the rectory. In the church are some memorials of the family of Barker.

Singleborough, a considerable hamlet about a mile from the village, has been inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1799, when an allotment of land was given to the rector, in lieu of the small tithes, and for the great tithes to which he was said to be entitled, as lessee under New-College. Several persons are mentioned in the act as claimants of the manor of Singleborough.

LITTLE-HARWOOD, in the hundred of Cotflow and deanery of Muresley, lies about two miles and a half to the north-east of Winslow. The manor, which had belonged to the abbot and convent of St. Alban's, was granted in 1599 to Sir John Fortescue, whose son sold it to Sir George Villiers. It was purchased of the mortgagees, of George Villiers, the second Duke of Buckingham (of that family), by William Lowndes esq. ancestor of the present proprietor, who has taken the name of Selby. A capital mansion at this place, which had belonged successively to the families of Pigot, Styles, Carter, and Adams, is now the property and seat of the Rev. Mr. Langston: it was purchased by his father, Sir Stephen Langston,

^c Pat. 4 Edw. IV.

alderman of London, who died in 1797, and lies buried in the church, where is a monument to his memory. Mr. Langston has the impropriation of the great tithes, and is patron and incumbent of the vicarage. The parish has been inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1766, when an allotment of land was assigned to Mr. Kidgell Sandon, then impropiator of the great tithes, and a corn-rent to the vicar.

HAVERSHAM, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies nearly four miles north-east of Stony-Stratford. The manor was in the Peverells at the time of the Norman survey, and afterwards in an ancient family, who took their name from the village. From the Havershams this manor passed by heirs female to the families of De la Plaunch, Pabenham, Hugford, and Lucy. John de Haversham had the king's licence to embattle his mansion at Haversham, in 1304^f. The Lucys continued to be possessed of the manor till after the middle of the 17th century. In 1664, it was purchased by the Thompsons: John Thompson esq. was created a peer in 1697, by the title of Lord Haversham, which became extinct on the death of his son. The manor was sold by the last Lord Haversham, in 1720, to Lucy Knightley esq. a descendant of its ancient owners, the Lucys. In 1764 it was purchased of Valentine Knightley esq. by the trustees of Alexander Small esq. the present proprietor, then under age. The manor-house, which was the seat of the Thompsons, has been in part pulled down; the remainder is fitted up as a farm-house.

1423. In the parish church is a beautiful monument, with the effigies of a female, lying on an altar tomb, under a rich Gothic canopy, supposed to be that of Elizabeth Lady Clinton, the heiress of the De la Plaunches, whose fourth husband was Sir John Clinton.

Mr. Small is patron of the rectory. In 1763, just before he sold the estate, an act of parliament passed, to enable Lucy Knightley esq. to inclose certain fields in Haversham, and to acquire the tithes and glebe, making a compensation to the rector, by an allotment of land and a corn-rent, then valued at 195*l. per annum*.

HAWRIDGE, in the hundred of Cotflow and deanery of Murefley, lies on the borders of Hertfordshire, about six miles nearly to the east of Wendover. The manor was anciently in the Mauduits and Beauchamps, who successively enjoyed the title of Earl of Warwick. Sir Thomas Peniston was lord of this manor, in the reign of Henry VIII. It was soon afterwards in the family of Tasburgh, who sold it to the Seares in 1630. It was purchased of that family in 1748, by Robert

^f Pat. 32 Edw. I.

Darell esq. father of Edward Darell esq. the present proprietor. Hawridge Court, the site of the manor, is a farm-house, built on a large circular platform, surrounded with a deep trench and vallum.

In the church are some memorials of the family of Seare, and the monument of Dorothy Lady Pakington^a, who died in 1577. William Sandby esq. is patron of the rectory.

HEDGERLEY, in the hundred and deanery of Burnham, lies about two miles and a half south-east of Beaconsfield. The principal manor has passed with that of Denham^b, and is now the property of Benjamin Way esq. A manor, called Hedgerley-Bulstrode, passed from the Bulstrodes to the Brudenells, by the marriage of William Brudenell esq. with Agnes, daughter and heir of Robert Bulstrode esq. of Hedgerley-Bulstrode, in the fourteenth century.

In the parish church are some memorials of the Bulstrode family. Mr. Way is patron of the rectory.

HEDSOR, in the hundred of Desborough and deanery of Wycombe, lies near the banks of the Thames, about five miles east of Marlow, and about the same distance from Maidenhead, in Berkshire. The manor belonged anciently to a family who took their name from the village: in the fifteenth century it was in the Restwolds, from whom it passed to the Hawtreys. Rowland Hynde purchased it about the year 1560, and it continued in his family nearly a century, when it passed by purchase to the Chilcots, of whom it was inherited by the Parkers: in 1764 it was purchased of Mrs. Elizabeth Parker, by William Lord Boston, and is now the property of his son, Frederick Lord Boston.

Hedfor-Lodge, the seat of Lord Boston, was built in 1778; it stands on the brow of a hill, commanding a very beautiful view of the Thames, and some of the most picturesque parts of Berkshire and Buckinghamshire. The house, which is elegant and commodious, contains a small collection of pictures, chiefly portraits of the families of Irby and Paget, connected by marriage. In the library is a singular portrait of Conrad Ernest Copperman, a dwarf, who was page of the back stairs to the Princess Dowager of Wales; he died at the age of 35, being then only three feet five inches in height.

An estate in this parish, called Lambert-Farm, was formerly held under the manor, by the service of bringing in the first dish at the lord's table, on St. Stephen's-

^a She was relict of Sir Thomas Pakington knt. and afterwards married to Thomas Tasburgh esq. lord of the manor of Hawridge.

^b See p. 548.

day, and presenting him with two hens, a cock, a gallon of ale, and two manchets of white bread; after dinner the lord delivered to the tenant a sparrowhawk and a couple of spaniels, to be kept at his cost and charges, for the lord's use: a composition is now paid in lieu of this service.

In the parish church, which is a very small building, are some memorials of the families of Hynde and Parker. In the church-yard are deposited the remains of Nathaniel Hooke, author of the Roman history, to whose memory a tablet has been lately put up at the expence of Lord Boston, with the following inscription: "*Sub hoc tumulo corpus deponi jussit Nathaniel Hooke Armiger, qui multiplici literarum varietate et studio eruditus, Romanæ historiæ auctor celebratus emicuit; de literis verò quantum meruit edita usque testabuntur opera. Ex vitâ demigravit annorum plenus & verè pius vicesimo secundo die Julii Anno Domini 1763. Ad cineres patris sui pariter requiescit corpus filiæ dilectissimæ Janæ Mariæ Hooke cujus animæ propitiatur Deus. Sexagenaria obiit vicesimo octavo die Aprilis, Anno Domini 1793. Hoc pietatis signum poni voluit Fredericus Baro de Boston, 1801.*"

Near the church is a yew-tree, which measures 27 feet in circumference.

Lord Boston and the bishop of Lincoln are patrons of the rectory. The bishop presents every third turn.

HILLESDON, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies nearly four miles south of the county town. The manor was anciently in the Giffards, Earls of Buckingham, afterwards in the Bolbecs, from whom it passed by marriage to the Veres and Courtneys. After the attainder of the Earl of Devon, in 1461, it was given to Sir Walter Devereux, who being slain at Bosworth-field, it was restored to the Courtenays, but was again forfeited by the attainder of the Marquis of Exeter, in 1539. King Edward VI. granted it to Thomas Denton esq. whose descendant, Edmund Denton, of Hillesdon, was created a baronet in 1699. The title became extinct at his death: the manor of Hillesdon, which continued in a collateral branch of the family, is now the property of Mrs. Coke, relict of the late Wenman Coke esq. and daughter of George Chamberlayne esq. whose father married Elizabeth, eldest daughter and co-heir of Alexander Denton esq.

The manor-house, the greater part of which was taken down a few years ago, was, during the civil war in the seventeenth century, made a garrison for the king, being then the seat of Sir Alexander Denton knt. who suffered great losses on account of his attachment to the royal cause. The garrison was surrendered in 1643, the house plundered, and Sir Alexander Denton committed to prison, where he died of a broken heart.

In the parish church are several monuments of the Dentons; that of Catherine,
wife





W. Symonds del. & fecit.

NORTH EAST VIEW OF HILLEDON CHURCH.

wife of Alexander Denton esq. one of the justices of the Common Pleas, is by Sir Henry Cheere, and is ornamented with busts in white marble, of the judge and his lady. There is also a monument for George Woodward esq. envoy to Poland, who died at Warsaw in 1735, and the tomb of Godfrey Boate, one of the justices of the king's bench, in Ireland, (the subject of Dean Swift's quibbling elegy,) who died in 1722. The church, which was rebuilt in 1493, is a very handsome Gothic structure: in the east window of the north aisle is some very rich stained glass, representing various scenes from the legend of St. Nicholas.

The great tithes, which were given by Walter Giffard, Earl of Buckingham, to Nutley abbey, are now vested in the dean and chapter of Christ Church, in Oxford, who are patrons of the donative.

HITCHAM, in the hundred and deanery of Burnham, lies about a mile north of the Bath road, and about three miles from Maidenhead, in Berkshire. The manor, which it is probable had belonged to some religious house, was in the reign of Henry VIII. the property of Lord Chief Justice Baldwin, whose daughter and heir brought it in marriage to Thomas Ramsey esq. Nicholas Clerke, marrying a daughter of Mr. Ramsey, became possessed of this manor. Queen Elizabeth paid a visit to his son Sir William, at Hitcham, in 1602, upon which occasion we are told, that "he so behaved himself, that he pleased nobody, but gave occasion to have his misery and vanity spread far and wide^c." His grandson, Sir John, was created a baronet in 1660, being then described of Hitcham; but the same year an act of parliament passed, to confirm his sale of this estate to Charles Doe. The Clerkes removed afterwards to Shabbington, in this county; the title is now extinct. The manor of Hitcham became the property of Dr. John Friend, the celebrated physician, who lies buried in the church, where there is a monument to his memory; it was purchased of his representative, by the present proprietor, Lord Grenville: the manor-house is now occupied as a school.

In the parish church are several memorials for the families of Ramsey and Clerke. The windows of the chancel are decorated with stained glass, the colours of which are very brilliant^d. The rector of this parish is nominated by the provost and fellows of Eton College, pursuant to the bequest of Mr. Archer, a former fellow, who being possessed of the advowson, has bound his heirs to present a clerk, nominated by the college. The parish has been inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1778, when an allotment of land was assigned to the rector in lieu of tithes.

^c Queen Elizabeth's Progresses, published by Nichols.

^d See p. 488.

HITCHENDEN, in the hundred of Desborough and deanery of Wycombe, lies scarcely two miles north of High-Wycombe. The manor having been part of the possessions of Odo, bishop of Baieux, half-brother to William the Conqueror, was granted by Henry I. to his chamberlain, Geffrey de Clinton, and by him given to the prior and convent of Kenilworth. In 1540 it was granted by King Henry VIII. to Sir Robert Dormer, from whose family it passed by a female heir to the Stanhopes. About the year 1738, Sir William Stanhope sold the manor and advowson of Hitchenden to Charles Savage esq. whose niece, Ellen, Countess Dowager of Conyngham, is the present proprietor, and resides in the manor-house. The manor of Ravensmere in this parish, which lies in the hundred of Aylesbury, was anciently in the family of Albini, from whom it descended, through heirs female, to the Fitzalans, Arundels, and Dormers: it is now the property of Lord Dormer. The manor of Overhall and Pigots, in Hitchenden, belonged successively to the families of Morton, Sydenham, and Hampden; it is now the property of Lord Hampden. The abbot and convent of Missenden had a manor in this parish; what became of it after the dissolution, we have not been able to ascertain: it is not improbable that it was the manor of Uphall, which belonged to the Lanes, in the early part of the last century; we could not learn who is the present proprietor of this estate. A manor within the manor of Hitchenden, belonging to Mr. Lloyd, was advertised for sale in the month of November 1804.

In the parish church are some ancient tombs, with figures in basso-relievo, supposed to have been intended for some of the posterity of Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, who assumed the name of Wellesbourn. The arms on the shields are, 1. Gul. a lion rampant, with two tails, Arg. devouring a man-child, Mountfort, Earl of Leicester. 2. Arg. a lion rampant, devouring a child, within an orle of cross-crosslets, Sable.—Mountfort of Warwickshire. 3. Bendy of ten. Or and Gul. Mountfort of Beldefert. 4. Gul. a Griffin segreant devouring a child Or.—A chief Checky, Or and Az. over all a bend Ermine—Wellesbourn. One of the figures is very fair, and represents a crusader in a coat of mail: the others are of ruder workmanship; one of these represents an armed man, with a sword in one hand and a cross in the other. The descendants of Simon de Mountfort are said by tradition to have lived at a house in this parish, called Wreck-hall, in the windows of which were formerly the same coats of arms which occur on the tombs in the church. Under an arch in the south wall of the chapel, in which are the above-mentioned tombs, lies an emaciated figure, in a shroud, on an altar tomb: the shields on this monument are all plain.

The great tithes, which were appropriated to the prior and convent of Kenilworth, are now the property of Lady Conyngham, who is patroness of the vicarage.

HOGGESTON, in the hundred of Cotflow and deanery of Muresley, lies about three miles and a half to the south-east of Winslow. It had formerly a market on Fridays, granted in 1314 to William de Bermingham, together with a fair on the festival of the exaltation of the holy cross, commonly called Holyrood-day: both the market and fair have long been discontinued. The manor was successively in the families of Paganel, Somery, and Bermingham; from the latter it passed by marriage, about the year 1520, to the Bulstrodes, who, about 1546, sold it to the Dormers: it is now the property of Earl Stanhope.

In the parish church are some memorials of the family of Mayne, and the tomb of the founder, of whom there is an effigy, much mutilated, holding in his hand a church. It is supposed to have been intended for William de Bermingham, lord of the manor, who died in 1342. The advowson of the rectory was annexed to the manor till the year 1798, when Lord Stanhope sold it to Worcester College in Oxford.

HOGSHAW, in the hundred of Ashendon, lies about five miles to the south-west of Winslow. The manor was given by Ralph Mallet to the Knights-Templars, who had a preceptory here: when their order was abolished, it was granted with most of their other estates to the Knights-Hospitallers. After the general dissolution of monasteries, it was granted by King Henry VIII. to the family of Lane. Having passed by a female heir to the Pigots, in 1650, it was purchased by Lord Brooke, of Beauchamp-Court, whose descendant, the present Earl of Warwick, sold it a few years ago to Mrs. Dupré, of Wilton park, in this county: it is now the property of her son, James Dupré esq.

This parish was consolidated with East-Claydon, in the time of bishop Gardiner. Divine service continued to be performed at Hogshaw once a month, till the church was defecrated. "In the year 1720, Lord Brooke's trustees, God pardon them," (says Browne Willis,) "gave the tenant, one Stevens, a quaker, leave to pull down the church, for the purpose of building an ox-house." Several of the Pigot family lay buried in Hogshaw church.

Hogshaw, together with the hamlet of *Fulbrook*, contain now only seven houses. The manor or reputed manor of Fulbrook, which had belonged to the Giffords and

and Winwoods, passed by a female heir from the last-mentioned family to Ralph, Duke of Montagu, and is now the property of Lord Francis Godolphin Osborne.

HORSENDON, in the hundred of Aylesbury and deanery of Wendover, lies about seven miles south-west of Wendover, and about the same distance south-east of Thame, in Oxfordshire. The manor was anciently the property of a family who took their name from the village. About the year 1210, it was purchased by the Braybrokes, and was afterwards successively in the families of Leynham and Moreton: Cardinal Moreton's nephew sold it to the family of Donne, from whom it passed by female heirs to the Cottons and Denhams. In the civil war of the 17th century, being then the property of Sir John Denham, the manor-house was garrisoned for the king; Sir John's son sold it to the ancestor of the present proprietor, John Grubb esq. for whose family there are several memorials in the parish church. Mr. Grubb is patron of the benefice, which in Bacon's Liber Regis is called a rectory, but it is there observed, that institution has been given to it only as a vicarage.

HORTON, in the hundred of Stoke and deanery of Burnham, lies about a mile to the south of Colnbrook. The manor was anciently in the Windsor family, who continued to possess it several generations. In 1658, it became the property by purchase of Robert Scawen, whose great-grandson James Scawen esq. sold it in 1782. After two or three intermediate conveyances, it was purchased in 1794, by the late Thomas Williams esq. M.P. whose son, Owen Williams esq. M.P. is the present proprietor. The manor-house, a large mansion, which had been a seat of the Scawens, was pulled down a few years ago, excepting a small part, which is occupied by cottagers.

In the parish church is a heavy monument, without any inscription, intended for some of the Scawen family, and the tomb of Milton's mother, who died in 1637. That great poet passed much time in his younger years at Horton, where his parents then resided. Mr. Williams is patron of the rectory. The parish has been inclosed by an act of parliament, which passed in 1799, when an allotment of land was assigned to the rector in lieu of tithes.

HULCOT, in the hundred of Aylesbury and deanery of Wendover, lies about three miles to the north-east of Aylesbury. The manor, which had belonged to the hospital of St. Thomas of Acon, was granted in 1540 to Greenway, and passed afterwards

afterwards to the families of Fountain and Neale : it was sold by the latter in 1740, to Sir John Fortescue Aland, one of the justices of the Common Pleas. Lord Fortescue was possessed of it in 1777, since which time it has been in the family of Tynte, and is now the property of John Baker esq. This manor is held with part of Bierton, and is usually called the manor of Hulcot and Bierton. A part of Hulcot seems always to have passed with Aylesbury, and to have been in the Botelers and Pakingtons.

The Rev. Mr. Langston is patron of the rectory, and incumbent. The parish has been inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1779, when an allotment of land was assigned to the rector in lieu of tithes.

ICKFORD, in the hundred of Ashendon and deanery of Waddeston, lies on the borders of Oxfordshire, about four miles and a half to the north-west of Thame. The manor appears to have been long held in moieties, one of which was, as early as the commencement of the 16th century, in the family of Danvers, and was lately the property of the Hon. Butler Danvers, who married the heiress (since deceased) of the late Sir John Danvers bart. It now belongs to Mr. Roebuck. The other moiety was many years in the family of Tipping, for whom there is a monument in the parish church. Sir Thomas Tipping knt. procured an act of parliament, to enable him to sell it, in 1703. It has since been for a considerable time in the family of Snell, to whom it still belongs. The late Mrs. Crewe claimed a paramount authority in this manor, as included within her manor of Shabbington. Mr. Townsend of Newbury is patron of the rectory. Calyute Downing, a celebrated divine in the 17th century, was rector of this parish.

ILMER, in the hundred of Ashendon and deanery of Waddeston, lies on the borders of Oxfordshire, about five miles east of Thame. The manor was anciently in the families of Molins and Hastings; afterwards in the Dormers, who held it by the service of being marshall of the king's falcons. In an abstract of the king's revenue, printed at the end of a work, entitled "The first fourteen years of King James I." Lord Dormer is styled master falconer to the king, within the manor of *Elmer*, in Buckinghamshire, with a fee of 27l. 7s. 6d. *per annum*. From the Dormers this manor passed by a female heir to the noble family of Stanhope; it is now the property of the Earl of Chesterfield.

The great tithes, which were formerly appropriated to the nunnery of Studley, in Oxfordshire, belong now to the Earl of Chesterfield, who is patron of the vicarage.

ISENHAMPSTED,

ISENHAMPSTED, or ISELHAMPSTED-CHENEYS, in the hundred and deanery of Burnham, lies on the borders of Hertfordshire, about four miles north-west of Rickmansworth, in that county, and about five miles nearly west of Amer sham. It is now generally called Cheneys; its original name is almost lost, having been exchanged for that, which was first given to distinguish it from the neighbouring village of Isenhampsted-Latimers, this place having been for many years the manor and seat of the ancient family of Cheyne. It had long been in the crown, previously to the reign of Edward III. to which monarch Thomas Cheyne, the first of the family who settled in this county, was shield-bearer. Iselhampsted was a royal palace, at which, as may be traced from records^c, King Edward I. and King Edward III. in the early part of his reign, occasionally resided. From the Cheynes this manor passed to the Sapcotes, pursuant to the will of Agnes Lady Cheyne, in 1494: it is now the property of the Duke of Bedford, whose ancestor, John Lord Russell, afterwards Earl of Bedford, married Anne, relict of Sir John Broughton, of Tuddington, in Bedfordshire, and heiress of Sir Guy Sapcote. For greater security perhaps of the title, John Cheyne, the heir male of its ancient proprietor, conveyed the manor of Isenhampsted-Cheneys to the Earl of Bedford, in 1560. Lord Russell, upon coming into possession of this estate, rebuilt the greater part of the manor-house, and made it his principal seat. "The old house of Cheynes is so translated," says Leland, "by my Lord Russell, that hath this house in right of his wife; that little or nothing of it remaineth ontranslated, and a great deal of the house is even newly set up and made of bricks and timber." Queen Elizabeth was entertained at Cheneys, by Francis Earl of Bedford, in 1570^f. A considerable part of the house, which was built by his father, still remains, but it has been deserted by the Russell family, ever since they fixed their principal residence at Woburn. In one of the wings now remaining is a long gallery, in which are some damaged pictures: the windows are stopped up. Cheneys is now occupied as a farm, and is the residence of the duke's principal tenant on this estate.

In the parish church are some memorials of the Cheynes. Two ancient tombs, which are now in the adjoining chapel, are supposed to belong to the same family. In this chapel, which was built by Anne Countess of Bedford, (the heiress of the Sapcotes,) is a monument for herself and her husband, John, the first Earl of Bedford. There are also the monuments of Francis Earl of Bedford, who died in 1585, and his countess; Anne Countess of Warwick, their daughter, and Lady Frances Bouchier, their granddaughter; Francis Earl of Bedford, who died in 1641,

^c See *Rotulus Familæ*, 18 Edw. I. in *Turr. Lond.*
published by Nichols.

^f *Queen Elizabeth's Progresses*,

and his countess; that of the first Duke of Bedford, a very heavy piece of sculpture, with whole-length figures of the duke and duchess, and a medallion of the unfortunate William Lord Russell, who lost his head on Tower-Hill, and was buried at Cheney's, August 2, 1683; and that of Wriothesley, Duke of Bedford, and his duchess, put up in 1769, by Wilton, from a design of Sir William Chambers. The last of this noble family here interred was the late duke, for whom as yet there is no monument at this place, nor is there any for his father, the Marquis of Tavistock, or his grandfather, John Duke of Bedford. A tablet has lately been put up in memory of Georgina Elizabeth, wife of Lord John Russell, (now Duke of Bedford,) and daughter of Viscount Torrington, who died in 1801.

It appears by the parish register, that the celebrated couple, Philip Earl of Pembroke and Anne Countess of Dorset (who was granddaughter of the first Francis Earl of Bedford) were married at Cheney's on the third of June, 1630. The register contains numerous entries of the Russell family, and records the burial of the Hon. Capt. Francis Digby, (son of George Earl of Bristol,) who was slain in the great sea fight with the Dutch, in 1672.—The Duke of Bedford is patron of the rectory.

Anne Countess of Warwick, founded an alms-house at Cheney's, in 1605, and endowed it with 50*l. per annum*, for the support of ten poor persons, six of whom are to be of Cheney's, two of Northall, and two of Wotton-Under-edge, in Gloucestershire.

IVER, in the hundred of Stoke and deanery of Burnham, lies between Uxbridge and Colnbrook, being about three miles distant from each. It had formerly a market, originally granted in 1351 to Lord Neville, and confirmed in 1461 to the dean and chapter of Windfor, together with two fairs; the market has been long discontinued; a small fair is held on the 10th of July. The opinion that this place took its name from Roger de Iveri, is certainly erroneous, and the learned bishop Kennet appears in this instance to have fallen into a mistake, and to have hazarded a conjecture, which is inconsistent with facts, which he has adduced from records in other parts of his useful work, the *Parochial Antiquities*, for he supposes Roger de Iveri to have succeeded to the manor of Iver, after Robert Doiley, who possessed it at the time of the Norman survey. Roger de Iveri and Robert Doiley were contemporaries and sworn friends; both came over with William the Conqueror, and had large grants of lands. Roger de Iveri had large estates in the county of Buckingham, but it does not appear that he ever possessed this manor, which in the survey of Domesday is called Evre and Evreham, being described as the property of Robert Doiley, from whom it passed with his daughter in marriage

to Milo Crispin, and after his death to Brien Fitz-Count, the brave defender of Wallingford Castle, who, we are told, kept his Christmas at Iver in the year 1143. Having afterwards entered into a religious order, the King (Henry II.) seized on all his estates. King Richard I. gave this manor to Robert de Clavering, some of whose descendants taking the name of Eure from this place, were ancestors of the Lords Eure and the Eures of Axholme. Sir John Clavering having no male issue, gave this manor and other estates to King Edw. II. and his heirs^a: King Edw. III. granted it, in 1329, to Simon de Bereford^b, and in 1336, to Ralph Lord Neville, of Raby, steward of the household^c, whose grandfather had married Euphemia, daughter of Sir John Clavering above-mentioned^d. In 1352, Lord Neville surrendered this manor to the king^e, who the next year granted it to his newly endowed college at Windfor^f. The dean and chapter reconveyed it to the crown, in the reign of Henry VIII. and received other lands in exchange. King Edward VI. gave it to Lord Paget, in whose family it continued till 1772, when it was sold by his descendant the present Earl of Uxbridge, and having since passed through several hands, is now the property of Henry Piper Sperling esq.

The manor and park of Levinz, *alias* Parlaunt, belonged also to the Pagets; the Earl of Uxbridge, who died in 1743, bequeathed it to Sir William Irby, afterwards Lord Boston, whose son Frederic Lord Boston is the present proprietor: it is now a farm in the tenure of Mr. William Ives. The house, and great part of the estate, are in the parish of Langley. The manor of Oak-end, at the northern extremity of this parish, is now the property and seat of Francis Sackville Lloyd esq. who inherits it by female descent from the family of Gould^g. The manor of Mansfeld, so called probably from the ancient family of Mansfeld, of Cliefden, is now the property of Mr. Whittington.

Richings Lodge, in this parish, the seat of the Right Hon. John Sullivan, M.P. was purchased of the family of Britton, by Sir Peter Apsley, whose granddaughter brought it in marriage to the first Lord Bathurst. The amiable and accomplished Countess of Hertford (afterwards Duchess of Somerset) made this place, which her husband had purchased of Lord Bathurst, her chief residence during her widowhood; and changed its name to Percy Lodge. In one of her letters, lately published, she observes, that on the spot where her green-house stood, was formerly a chapel, dedicated to St. Leonard: she observes also, that an old covered bench in her gardens exhibited many remains of the wit of her predecessor's visitors; Addison, Pope, Prior, Congreve, and Gay. The Duchess of Somerset died at

^a Dugdale's Baronage.

^b Pat. 3 Edw. III.

^c Pat. 10 Edw. III.

^d Dugdale.

^e Pat. 25 Edw. III.

^f History of Windfor, p. 104.

^g His mother was one of the four daughters and coheirs of Sir Thomas Wheate bart. by the daughter and coheir of Thomas Gould esq.

Percy Lodge, in the month of July 1754, when it was inherited by her daughter, the Duchess of Northumberland. The duke, her husband, sold it to Sir John Coghill, of whose relict, the Countess of Charleville, it was purchased in 1786, by Mr. Sullivan.

In the parish church is a monument, in memory of Sir George and Sir Edward Salter, successively carvers to King Charles I. with the effigies of Mary Lady Salter, (wife of Sir George,) rising from her coffin in a shroud. There is also the monument of John King, who was killed in his own house in 1604, by his kinsman, Roger Parkinson, who in a drunken fit stuck a shoe-maker's awl into his forehead. The lay rectory of Iver, to which a manor is annexed, was given by King Edward III. to the church of Windfor, and came again to the crown by exchange. It was purchased of the Leigh family, who had been a considerable time in possession, by Thomas Bernard esq. treasurer of the foundling hospital, who in 1800 sold it to the present proprietor, Mr. Sullivan, who is patron of the curacy. Mr. Bernard had a seat at Iver, now the property of Edward Bury esq.

Robert Bowyer, about the middle of the last century, founded a free-school at Iver, and endowed it with a sum of money, which produces an income of about 21*l. per annum*.

Thorney is the principal hamlet in this parish; Riskins, Sutton, Shredding-Green, Grist, Bengers, Delaford, and Huntmore, are in the parish. An act of parliament, for inclosing the parish of Iver, passed in 1800, when an allotment of land was assigned in lieu of the impropriate tithes, the lay rector being entitled to the vicarial as well as the great tithes: a small allotment near the workhouse was assigned for the use of the poor. The parish is stated in the act to contain 2462 acres.

IVINGHOE, in the hundred of Cotflow and deanery of Muresley, is a small market-town, 33 miles from London by way of King's Langley, and 32 by way of Watford: it lies near the ancient Ikeneld-Street. A market at this town, on Thursdays, was granted to the bishop of Winchester, in 1318: the present market-day is Saturday, but the market is so small that it may be almost said to be discontinued. A fair on St. Margaret's-day was granted in 1227, another on the assumption of the Virgin Mary, by the charter of 1318. the present fairs are May 6th, and October 17th. The manor of Ivinghoe was given by Edward the Confessor to the see of Winchester; bishop Poynt surrendered it to the crown. It was restored to bishop White, but reassumed by Queen Elizabeth, who granted it, together with the profits of the market and fairs, to Sir John Mason: having again reverted to the crown, it was given to Lord Keeper Egerton, and is now the property of his descendant, the Earl of Bridgewater.

Berryfted-Houfe, in this parifh, is faid to have been the feat of Henry de Blois, bifhop of Winchefter, brother of King Stephen ; it is now a farm-houfe, belonging to the Earl of Bridgewater.

In the parifh church, which is a handsome Gothic building, are fome memorials of the family of Duncombe, who had a feat in this parifh, called Barley-end Houfe, now the property and refidence of their representative, Mrs. Lucy. On the north fide of the chancel is an ancient altar-tomb, with an effigies of the deceased, faid to have been that of a brother of King Stephen, meaning perhaps Henry de Blois, bifhop of Winchefter : Browne Willis fuppofes it to be the tomb of Peter Chaceport.

The great tithes were appropriated to the monastery of Afheridge, in 1413 : they are now the property of the Earl of Bridgewater, who is patron of the vicarage.

The principal hamlets in this parifh are *Afzon*, where was formerly a chapel dedicated to St. James, *Wardburft*, *Ringsball*, *Clipperfdown*, and *St. Margaret's*. At the latter, which is a populous hamlet, containing about three-fcore houfes, and is diftant about five miles from the town of Ivinghoe, are the remains of the monastery of Murefley, founded by Henry de Blois, bifhop of Winchefter, in the reign of Henry I. for nuns of the Benedictine order, and dedicated to St. Margaret. Its revenues were valued in the reign of Henry VIII. at 14l. 3s. 1d. The fite, with the manor, or reputed manor, of Murefley, was granted, almoft immediately after the diffolution, to Sir John Dance : it has been lately fold by Mr. George Catherall, in whole family it has been during feveral generations, to Mr. Mercer, of Long-acre. The building was, in 1802, almoft entire : the parlour and hall, which are of Toternhoe ftone, appear to be of the age of Henry VII.

GREAT-KIMBELL, or KIMBLE, in the hundred of Aylefbury and deanery of Wendover, lies about three miles to the fouth-weft of Wendover. The manor belonged in the fourteenth century to Sir Walter Upton knt. whose only daughter and heir having married the fecond fon of Sir Reginald Hampden, it continued many years in this branch of the Hampden family, who afterwards, on a failure of iffue from the elder branch, fucceeded to the Great-Hampden eftate. About the year 1730, this manor was fold by trustees, acting on behalf of the Hampden family, (under an act of parliament, paffed in 1726,) to Sarah, Duchefs of Marlborough, and by her given to her grandfon, John Spencer. From him it defcended to the prefent Earl Spencer, who, in 1803, fold it to Mr. Rickford, by whom it was conveyed the fame year to the prefent proprietor, Scrope Bernard efq. together with two fubordinate manors in the parifh, called Marshall's and Fennell's-Grove, *alias* Whityngams. Thefe manors, which comprife the hamlets of Marfh and Kimbell-wick, were purchafed

by the Hampdens at an early period, and have since passed with the superior manor, which in some old writings is called Upton's.

An act of parliament, for inclosing this parish, passed in 1803, when allotments of land were made to Mr. Bernard, and other impropiators of the great tithes, which formerly belonged to Miffenden abbey. The parsonage house and chancel are now vested in Mr. Bernard. Lord Hampden is patron of the vicarage, which in 1799 was consolidated with Great-Hampden.

LITTLE-KIMBELL or KIMBLE, in the hundred of Aylesbury and deanery of Wendover, lies about three miles to the south-west of Wendover. The manor, which was formerly in the Hampdens, passed by a female heir, about the year 1553, to Sir George Pawlet, whose granddaughter, Elizabeth, brought it in marriage to Oliver St. John, son and heir of Oliver Lord St. John, of Bletsoe, who, jointly with his wife, sold it about the year 1600, to Richard Waller esq. of Colehill, in the parish of Amerham. After this, the manor of Little-Kimble passed by sale to the families of Serjeant and Bracy, and by inheritance or marriage to the families of Croke and Ledwell. In 1792 it was purchased of William Bridges Ledwell esq. of Woodperry, in the county of Oxford, by Scrope Bernard esq. of Nether-Winchenden, the present proprietor, who has been laying out grounds with an intention of building at this place.

The advowson of the rectory has been for more than a century in the family of Chapman: the present rector is both patron and incumbent. An act of parliament passed in 1803, for inclosing this parish, when an allotment of land was assigned to the rector in lieu of tithes: the woodlands still continue titheable.

KINGSEY, in the hundred of Ashendon and deanery of Waddesdon, lies on the borders of Oxfordshire, about three miles west of Thame. The manor, during a great part of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, was in the family of Marney. At a later period it was in the Spillers, and passed in marriage, with the daughter and sole heir of Sir Robert Spiller, to the Herberts of Tythorp, (a hamlet of this parish, situated in Oxfordshire,) a younger branch of the Herberts, Earls of Pembroke. It is now in moieties, one of which belongs to Mrs. Anne Herbert, a maiden lady, sister and coheir of Philip Herbert esq. the last heir male of this branch of the family, who died in 1749; the other moiety passed in marriage to Philip Lord Viscount Wenman, father of the late Lord, and is now by bequest the property of Miss Bertie. The mansion, sometimes called Kingsey, and sometimes Tythorp-House, is the seat of Mrs. Herbert.

The church, which was formerly a chapel of ease to Haddenham, is now a distinct vicarage, in the gift of the dean and chapter of Rochester, to whom the
great

great tithes are appropriated. The lease of the tithes has long been vested in the Herbert family, who have frequently, as lessees, presented to the vicarage.

LANGLEY, called in old writings LANGLEY-MARIES or MARYS, lies in the hundred of Stoke and deanery of Burnham, about two miles and a half to the north-west of Colnbrook, a part of which is in this parish. The manor came to the crown in the reign of Edward I. by reason of the minority of Ralph Plaiz, cousin and heir of Aveline Mountfichet, and though afterwards claimed by Elizabeth, Countess of Oxford, as heir of the said Ralph, was retained by the crown till the year 1447, when it was granted to Eton College^b. Having by some exchange, as is supposed, reverted to the crown, it was granted for life to Henry Norris, in 1523, and to John Duke of Northumberland, in 1564. In 1626, it was granted in fee, to Sir John Kederminster, whose family had been long resident in the parish. His only daughter and heir married Sir John Parsons, of Boveney, whose son William, being then described as of Langley, was created a baronet in 1661, and was ancestor of the present Sir Mark Parsons bart. of Epsom, in Surrey. The executors of Sir William Parsons, the first baronet, sold Langley in 1669, to Henry Seymour esq. whose son of the same name was created a baronet in 1681. His cousin and heir, Sir Edward Seymour bart. sold it in 1714 to Lord Masham, of whom it was purchased in 1738, by the late Duke of Marlborough. An act of parliament passed in 1755, for re-building the house at Langley-park; it is now the property and seat of Sir Robert Bateson Harvey bart. who bought the park and manor in 1788, of the present Duke of Marlborough.

The Duke of Somerset conveyed Parlaunt-park, in Langley, to Sir Thomas Heneage, in 1549. It has been mentioned under Iver, that the manor of Leving, *alias* Parlaunt-park, is partly in Iver, and partly in this parish: the house is in Langley. This estate was in the Pagets, and is now the property of Lord Boston.

Sir Richard Hobart had a seat at Langley, to which his brother-in-law, Dr. Henry King, bishop of Chichester, retired during the protectorate of the Cromwells.

Langley has a parochial chapel, (subject to the mother church of Wyardisbury,) in which are memorials of the family of Kederminster. The Kederminster aisle is separated from the nave by a Gothic screen, executed by Coade of Lambeth, and erected in 1792, at the expence of Sir R. B. Harvey. In this aisle is the monument of the late David Harvey esq. who died in 1788, put up by his nephew, the present lord of the manor of Langley, who inherited a considerable part of his fortune, and has taken the name of Harvey in addition to that of Bateson.

At the south end of this chapel, separated by an ancient screen, is a small library,

^b Rot. Parl. Vol. v.

consisting chiefly of books of divinity, left for public use, by Sir John Kederminster, with an express injunction that no book should ever be taken out of it. The great tithes, which belonged to the church of Windfor, were lately purchased under the act for the redemption of the land-tax, by Mr. Nash of Upton. They are subject to a payment of 20*l. per annum* to the vicar. The dean and chapter are patrons of the vicarage.

There are two alms-houses at Langley, one of them was founded by Sir John Kederminster for six poor persons, each of whom receives a weekly allowance of about two shillings and sixpence. The other alms-house was founded for two poor men and two women, by Henry Seymour esq. whose nephew, Captain Henry Seymour, in 1733, bequeathed the sum of 200*l.* to purchase lands for its better support. The alms-people in this house, who receive two shillings and sixpence a week each, are appointed by trustees, of whom the vicar is one. There are three overseers for the parish of Langley, one for the district of Westmoor, one for Huntmore, and one for Colnbrook.

The north side of Colnbrook, excepting two houses, which are in Iver, is in this parish. This town, which lies on the Bath road, at the distance of 17 miles from London, takes its name from the small river Coln: it has been supposed by some to have been the *Pontes* of Antoninus. The town was incorporated in the year 1543, by the style of Bailiff and Burgeesses: a market on Tuesdays, and two fairs, were granted by the same charter. Two other fairs were granted in 1613, and the town had a new charter of Incorporation in 1632. The market has been discontinued above twenty years: the fairs, which were held on Lady-day, St. Mark, St. James, and St. Simon and St. Jude, are now reduced to two, which are held on the 5th of April and the 3d of May.

An ancient chantry chapel at Colnbrook, which continued to be used for divine service after the reformation, was endowed in 1682, by George Townsfend esq. with a moiety of the rents of certain tenements in Cradle-alley, Drury-lane. Mr. Townsfend directs by his will, that the donative of this chapel shall be conferred, when void, on one of his exhibitioners at Pembroke College, in Oxford, who had been educated at Crypt school, in Gloucester. The chapel was removed from its old site in Langley parish, about the year 1790, and rebuilt on the opposite side of the road in the parish of Horton.

LATHBURY, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies a mile north of Newport-Pagnell, near the road to Northampton. There are two manors in this parish, one of which, called the Abbey-manor, passed by a female heir from the family of Bidun to the Gatfildens, who gave it in the year 1272 to Lavendon-abbey.

At

At the restoration it was granted, together with the impropriate tithes and the advowson of the curacy or donative, to Christ-Church College, in Oxford. The other manor was also in the Biduns, and afterwards successively in the families of Albini, Sadelyng, Stanes, and Vaux: on the attainder of Lord Vaux, it was given to Sir Ralph Hastings, from whom it passed by a female heir to the noble family of Grey. It was sold by William Lord Grey, to the Marquis of Northampton, and by him to the family of Cave, from whom it passed by marriage to the Newdegates and Hampdens. The Andrewes family became possessed of it by purchase about the year 1599; Henry Andrewes esq. of Lathbury, was created a baronet in 1661; the title is extinct. The manor is now in moieties, between Mansell Dawkins Mansell esq. and Mrs. Margaret Dalway, under the will of Mrs. Jane Symes, whose mother purchased of the representatives of the Andrewes family. Mr. Mansell has lately built a new house, in which he resides, on the site of a mansion, which was erected in or about the reign of James I. by Sir Wm. Andrewes knt. In the church are some memorials of the Andrewes family. The late learned Dr. Chelfum, who distinguished himself as a defender of Christianity against the attacks of Gibbon the historian, had for some time the donative of Lathbury, which is, as before observed, in the patronage of the dean and chapter of Christ-Church. The college always grants the incumbent a beneficial lease of the great tithes.

Anthony Cave founded a grammar-school at Lathbury, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and endowed it with 12l. *per annum*, for a master to be nominated by Christ-Church College, and gave two exhibitions of 6l. each to the scholars, one of whom was to be of Christ-Church. This endowment has been lost: the school-house was pulled down in 1698, and the materials used in repairing the curate's dwelling.

LAVENDON, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies on the borders of Bedfordshire, nearly three miles north-east of Olney; it had formerly a market on Tuesdays, granted in 1248 to Paulinus Peyvre, together with a fair on the festival of the assumption of the Virgin Mary¹. The market has been long discontinued; a small fair is held annually on the Tuesday before Easter. In this parish was an abbey of Premonstratensian monks, founded in the reign of Henry II. by John de Bidun, a baron, in honour of St. John Baptist. Its revenues were estimated, when it was dissolved in the reign of Henry VIII. at 79l. 13s. 8d. clear yearly value. The site, together with the abbey manor, was granted in 1544 to Sir Edmund

¹ Cart. 33 Hen. III.

Peckham, who had for some years been lessee under the crown, and afterwards to Sir Rowland Heywood. About the year 1676, it was purchased by the father of Dr. Newton, founder of Hertford College, in Oxford, who made the site of the abbey his residence. There are no remains of the conventual buildings, which, by the report of the commissioners, appear to have been in ruins in 1534, before the monastery was dissolved. The Abbey-manor, or grange, is now the property of the Rev. Simon Adams, whose father, Knightly Adams esq. married Jane, the daughter and heir of Dr. Newton.

The Castle-manor is so called from a castle, which probably was the seat of the ancient baronial family of Bidun, by whom the abbey was founded: it was afterwards successively in the Peyvres and Zouches; of the latter it was purchased in 1527, by Lord Mordaunt, whose descendant sold it, about the year 1630, to the Comptons: it is now the property of Farrer Grove Spurgeon Farrer esq. whose grandfather, William Farrer esq. purchased it of the Comptons. There is a farmhouse on the site of the castle, of which there are no other remains than a moat, and some vestiges of buildings. It appears by an ancient institution to the vicarage of Lavendon, now in the registry of the bishop of Lincoln, that the castle was standing in the year 1232, since it is stated in the record of the institution, that the abbot of Lavendon was bound to provide a chaplain, to officiate in the chapel of St. Mary, in Lavendon-castle.

The manor of *Upboe*, a hamlet of this parish, has been some time in the Farrer family, and is now the property of F. G. S. Farrer esq. The manor, or reputed manor of *Snellson*, another hamlet of this parish, on the confines of Bedfordshire, was sold by the Mordaunts, to the Comptons, of whom it was purchased by the father of Charles Chester esq. the present proprietor. The manor, or reputed manor of *Addersey*, in this parish, now the property of Philip Skeen esq. was purchased of Lord Hinchinbroke, (now Earl of Sandwich:) it had belonged some time before to the Earl of Halifax.

In the parish church is the monument of Dr. Newton above-mentioned, and memorials for others of his family. The parish of Lavendon has been inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1801, when an allotment of land was assigned to the vicar, in lieu of the vicarage, and a portion of the great tithes to which he was entitled: allotments were assigned also to the Earl of Dartmouth, Mr. Farrer, and Mr. Chester, in lieu of their several portions of tithes, which had formerly been appropriated to the abbey. The vicarage is in the gift of Gerard Noel esq. who inherited the advowson, with other estates from his uncle, the late Earl of Gainsborough.

LEE, in the hundred of Aylesbury and deanery of Windfor, lies about three miles to the south-west of Wendover. The manor is the property of Henry Deering esq. in right of his wife, heiress of the family of Plaistowe, for whom there are some memorials in the parish church, formerly a chapel of ease to Weston-Turville. James Oldham Oldham esq. is patron of the donative, as proprietor of Missenden-abbey and its demesnes. Lee was dependant on that monastery at the time of the reformation, and divine service was performed there by one of the monks: when Missenden-abbey was dissolved, he had an addition to his pension assigned him in consideration of his continuing to serve the cure.

LEKHAMSTED, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies about three miles and a half to the north-east of the county town. The manor was anciently in the Chastillons, who held it under the honor of Mandeville; before the year 1398, it passed, by purchase, to the Gernons, and from them descended, by female heirs, to the Tilneys and Greenways: Sir Anthony Greenway sold it, about the year 1631, to the Pyes. Sir Edmund Pye of Lekhamsted, who was created a baronet in 1641, was succeeded in this estate by his daughter, the Hon. Catherine West; on her death it became the property of her niece Martha, sister of the last Lord Lovelace, who married Lord Henry Beauclerk. It is now the property of their son, the Rev. Henry Beauclerk, who is also patron and incumbent of the rectory. Mr. Beauclerk has another estate in this parish, called Heyborne-fields manor, which, having been for a considerable time in the family of Greene, about the middle of the sixteenth century, became the property of the Wentworths of Lillingstone-Lovell, and passed from them, by a female heir, to the Cresswells. Mrs. Cresswell bequeathed it to Mr. Beauclerk's mother.

The manor, or reputed manor of Lekhamsted-Parva, *alias* Lymes-end, with Nafst-end, belonged to the Tyrells as early as the middle of the sixteenth century, and is claimed by their representative, Thomas Sheppard esq. of Thornton, who gives a deputation for the manor. Samuel Athawes esq. has also given a deputation for the manor of Lymes-end, as possessor of an estate at this place, purchased of the Tyrells.

In the church is a tablet, very rudely executed, to the memory of Sir Anthony Greenway the elder, who died in 1619.

LILLINGSTONE-DAYRELL, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies nearly five miles to the north of the county-town. The manor belonged anciently to the Giffards, Earls of Buckingham, from them it passed, by female heirs, to the
Bolbecs

Bolbecs and Veres, under whom, as lords of the fee, it was held, at a very early period, by the ancient family of Dayrell, who came over with William the Conqueror. They settled at Lillingstone before the year 1200, and before 1306, became possessed of the fee of the manor, which has ever since continued in the family by lineal descent in the male line, being now the property of Paul Dayrell esq.

In the parish church is the monument of Dorothy Haddon, (of the Dayrell family,) mother of Dr. Walter Haddon, one of the masters of requests in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, who employed him in various embassies. We are told that he was in great esteem for his eloquence and learning. Some of his works are extant, among which is a volume of Latin Poems. He was the author of numerous epitaphs on eminent persons of his time: that on his mother, in Lillingstone church, is not a very favourable specimen of his poetical talents. In this church are several memorials of the Dayrells, the most ancient is the tomb of Paul Dayrell, who died in 1491; the latest, that of Richard Dayrell esq. who died in 1801, being the thirty-first male heir of the family. Mr. Dayrell is patron of the rectory.

LINCHLADE, in the hundred of Cotflow and deanery of Murelsey, lies on the borders of Bedfordshire, about two miles north-west of Leighton-Buzzard. It had formerly a market on Thursdays, granted to William de Beauchamp in 1251. A fair was granted by the same charter, to be held for eight days at Lady-day. About that time there was a great resort of pilgrims, and frequent processions made to a holy well at Linchlade, which were prohibited in 1299, by a mandate of Oliver Sutton, bishop of Lincoln, who severely censures such resort to a *profane* (meaning, it is probable) an unconsecrated place. The vicar, who, for his own emolument, had encouraged these pilgrimages, was cited to appear in the bishop's court. The mandate is printed in Gunton's History of Peterborough^a.

The manor of Linchlade was anciently in the Beauchamps, barons of Bedford, from whom it passed, by a female heir, to the Mowbrays. It was held under them by the family of Lucy, from whom it passed, by marriage, to the Corbets. Sarah, widow of Sir Vincent Corbet bart. being possessed of this manor, was created Viscountess Linchlade, in 1675: the title was limited to her life. Linchlade is now the property of Andrew Corbet esq. The great tithes, which were given by Simon de Beauchamp, to the priory of Chicksand, are now the property of Mr. Corbet, who is patron of the donative. In the parish church is the monument of Major Charles Shipman, who died in 1797, at the age of 98.

^a P. 341.

GREAT LINFORD, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies nearly three miles to the south-west of Newport Pagnell. In the reign of King John, the manor belonged to Geoffrey de Gibwen, some time one of his majesty's justices-itinerant. It was afterwards in the Pipards, from whom it passed to the Botelers. Upon the attainder of James Boteler, Earl of Wiltshire, King Edward IV. granted this manor to Richard Middleton esq. and his heirs male^b. It soon reverted to the crown, and was granted in 1467, to the Princess Elizabeth^c, who became the queen of Henry VII. It seems to have been afterwards restored to the St. Legers, as representatives, in the female line, of the Botelers, for it appears that Sir George St. Leger exchanged it for other lands, with King Henry VIII. Queen Elizabeth granted it to Richard Campion and John Thompson. It was purchased of the Thompsons, about the year 1632, by Sir Robert Napier, whose heirs sold it about 1679, to Sir William Pritchard, alderman of London. By his bequest, it became the property of his relation^d, Thomas Uthwatt esq. Upon the decease of Mrs. Uthwatt, lady of the manor, in 1800, it devolved to the Rev. Henry Uthwatt Andrewes, who has since taken the name of Uthwatt, which is to be assumed by his issue male, when they shall succeed and come into actual possession of the estates, devised by the will of his godfather and relation, Henry Uthwatt esq. of Great Linford, bearing date 1757.

In the parish church is the monument of Sir William Pritchard above-mentioned, who died in the year 1704. He was president of St. Bartholomew's hospital, where he erected a convenient apartment, at his own expence, for performing the operation of cutting for the stone. He founded an alms-house at Great Linford, for six poor men, who receive from his endowment an allowance of 1s. 6d. each weekly, and a school, with a salary of 10l. *per annum* for the master. Mr. Uthwatt is patron of the rectory.

Dr. Richard Sandy, *alias* Napier, who was presented to this rectory in 1589, was a very remarkable character: he was son of Sir Robert Napier, of Luton Hoo, in Bedfordshire, and having been instructed in physic and astrology, by the celebrated Dr. Simon Forman, commenced the profession of those sciences, in conjunction with the cure of souls: his practice as a physician became very extensive, it being given out that he held conversations with the angel Raphael, by means of which, he prognosticated with certainty, the death or recovery of his patients. This procured him great credit in a superstitious age, and he was resorted to by persons of the first

^b Pat. 1 Edw. IV. ^c Pat. 7 Edw. IV. ^d It has been said that Sir William Pritchard bequeathed this estate to St. Bartholomew's hospital; but it appears by the will, that the bequest to that hospital was only in the event of a failure of heirs, according to the entail.

rank and consequence. It appears by a passage in Howell's Familiar Letters, that the Earl of Sunderland (lord president of the north) was under his care for some months, at his house at Linford, in 1629. It was said of this empiric divine, that he was so devout, that his knees grew horny by much praying, and that he died in that posture, at a great age, in the year 1634. His burial is thus entered in the parish register, "April 15, 1634. Buried, Mr. Richard Napier, rector, the most renowned physician both of body and soul." Dr. Napier's papers came into the hands of Mr. Ashmole, and are now in the museum at Oxford.

LITTLE LINFORD, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies about three miles to the north-west of Newport-Pagnell. The manor was anciently in the Pagnells, from whom it passed, by female heirs, to the families of Somery, Botetort, Burnell, and Bermingham. Having been purchased of the last-mentioned family, by the Botelers, it passed with Great Linford, till about the year 1658, when it was purchased of the Thompsons, by Kilpin and others, and by them sold to an ancestor of the present proprietor, the Rev. Primat Knapp, who is patron of the curacy.

The church of Little Linford, now a separate parish, was formerly a chapel of ease to Newport-Pagnell, and was given by the Pagnells to Tickford Priory. The inhabitants of Little Linford bury their dead at Haverham, excepting the family of the lord of the manor, for whom there are some monuments in the church.

LOUGHTON, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies three miles south-east of Stony-Stratford, near the great road to London. The manor was in the family of Ardres, from 1358 to 1414, afterwards successively in the families of Rushby, Lucy, Hopper, and Crane. In 1655 it was sold, together with the manor of Little Loughton, (which had been successively in the families of Wolverton, Loughton, Edy, Pigot, and Crane,) to the Holts, who continued possessed of them till within these few years. They are now the property of Mr. Swan. The demesnes of the manor of Great Loughton were sold to the Alstons, and by them, about the year 1699, to the Hanslapes. They are now, by descent, the property of Mr. Gee, of Newport.

In the church are some memorials for the family of Crane. The master and scholars of Trinity College, in Cambridge, are patrons of the rectory. The parish has been inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1768, when an allotment of land was assigned to the rector in lieu of tithes.

LUDGERSHALL, in the hundred of Ashendon and deanery of Waddesdon, lies about six miles and a half from Bicester, in Oxfordshire, and nearly twelve miles north.

north-west of Aylesbury. There was formerly an alien hospital or priory at this place, subordinate to the priory of Santingfield, in Picardy. Upon the confiscation of the property of alien priories, this hospital, with its lands, was given by King Henry VI. to Trinity College, in Cambridge.

The manor of Ludgershall was anciently in the baronial family of Traylly. William de Luder, bishop of Ely, who died seised of it in 1297^e, held it by lease for a term of years, under the Trayllys^f. In 1335, it was granted by King Edward III. to Sir John Molins, and it is probable that it passed, with his other estates, to the families of Hungerford and Hastings. At a later period it was in the Borlase family, from whom it passed, by a female heir, to the Warrens. It is now the property of the Rev. Claudius Martyn, whose mother (relict of the late professor of botany, at Cambridge,) purchased it in 1784, of the present Sir John Borlase Warren K. B. Mr. Martyn is patron also of the rectory, and incumbent.

The parish of Ludgershall has been inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1777. An allotment was given in lieu of tithes to the rector. Two-thirds of the tithes of this parish belonged formerly to the prior and convent of Bermondsey, having been given to that monastery by Geoffrey de Traylly, in 1190^g.

Kingswood and *Tetchwick* are hamlets of this parish: Kingswood maintains its own poor.

The manor of Tetchwick was in the year 1614, divided between the three coheiresses of Sir William Hawtrey. Sir Henry Croke, who married one of these coheiresses, sold his share in 1615, to Robert Jenkinson, citizen and Merchant-Taylor, whose descendant, Sir Robert Jenkinson bart. conveyed it in 1703, to Edward Mitchell: after some intermediate conveyances, it is now the property of Mr. Hollier, who gives a deputation for the manor.

GREAT MARLOW, in the hundred of Desborough and deanery of Wycombe, distant about 31 miles from London, has been a market town by long prescription, as appears from its ancient name of Chipping-Marlow. It sent members to parliament as early as the year 1299, but after the year 1308, this ancient privilege was disused till 1622, when it was restored by act of parliament. The right of election is in the inhabitants paying scot and lot: the government of the town is vested in constables, who are the returning officers. In the year 1599, John Rotheram, of Seymours, in this parish, left the sum of 4cl. towards procuring a charter of incorporation, and reviving a market to be kept weekly, the profits of which should

^e Kennet's Parochial Antiquities, p. 331.
No. 7.

^f Manning's Surrey, Vol. I. p. 196.

^g Placit, &c. in Com. Bucks, in Turr. London,

be vested in the corporation; but his intention never took effect. The market, which appears to have been then discontinued, has been revived, and is held on Saturdays. In 1324, Hugh de Spencer had a grant of a fair at Marlow. There are now two fairs held, on the second and third of May, and the 29th of October. The latter is a great fair for horses. The town and parish of Great Marlow, according to the returns made to parliament, under the population act in 1801, then contained 643 houses, of which 26 were uninhabited. The number of inhabitants was 3236, of whom 1436 were males, 1800 females: the number of persons employed chiefly in agriculture, was 236, and those in trade, manufacture, and handicraft, 306.

The manor of Marlow, which had belonged to the Earls of Mercia, was given by William the Conqueror, to his Queen Matilda. Henry the First, bestowed it on his natural son, Robert de Melhent, afterwards Earl of Gloucester, from whom it passed, with that title, to the Clares and Despencers, and from the latter, by female heirs, to the Beauchamps and Nevilles, Earls of Warwick. It continued in the crown from the time of Richard the Third's marriage with Anne Neville, till Queen Mary granted it to William Lord Paget, in whose family it continued more than a century; after which, it passed, by purchase, to Sir Humphrey Winch, in 1670; to Lord Falkland in 1686; to Sir James Etheridge in 1690; to Sir John Guise in 1718; and to Sir William Clayton in 1736. It is now the property of Sir William Clayton bart. a descendant of the last purchaser.

Harleyford, the seat of Sir William Clayton, was formerly a distinct manor, belonging to the family of Cawood. It was annexed to the manor of Marlow, by the first Lord Paget, who made it one of his seats. His great grandson, William Lord Paget, resided here during the civil war. Harleyford has continued to be the residence of the subsequent proprietors of the manor, most of whom have represented the borough of Marlow in parliament. Sir James Etheridge was one of its members during the whole of King William's reign. The old mansion, which was very spacious, was pulled down in the year 1755; and the present house, which stands in a singularly beautiful situation on the banks of the Thames, was then built, after a design of Sir Robert Taylor.

The manor of Widmer, in this parish, belonged to the knights templars, and after the dissolution of their order, to the knights hospitallers. After the reformation it belonged for some time to the Widmers, an ancient family, who seem to have taken their name from the place, and it is probable, had been tenants under the hospitallers. About the year 1634, it was purchased by the Borlases, from whom it passed, by marriage, to the Grenvilles. The late Earl Temple sold it, about the year 1747, to Mr. Moore, of whom it was purchased in 1766, by William Clayton esq.

esq. father of Sir William Clayton bart. who is the present proprietor. Part of the manor-house (now a farm) is very ancient. The chapel has been converted into a brew-house.

The manor of Seymours, in this parish, belonged to the noble family of that name, and was given by them in exchange, to the dean and chapter of Bristol, under whom it was successively held on lease, by the Willoughbys of Wollaton, and the Earls of Powis. They resided occasionally in the manor-house, till the great civil war, when it was nearly destroyed. The lease continued in the Powis family till after the death of the Marquis of Powis, in 1748. It is now vested in Mr. Johnson.

Court-Garden, the seat of Richard Davenport esq. belonged to the noble family of Paget, and was reserved by them long after the manor had been alienated. In 1748 it was sold by Henry, Earl of Uxbridge, to Dr. Battie, an eminent physician, who built the house.

The parish church of Marlow is a spacious Gothic structure, and has a wooden spire, erected in 1627: between the nave and chancel, is a screen of chalk, with Gothic tracery. A neat baptistry was fitted up, and a new marble font given by the late vicar, Dr. Cleobury. The most remarkable monuments are those of Sir Miles Hobart, one of the members for this borough, who was killed by the overturning of his coach, as it was going down Holborn-hill, in 1632; and Katherine, wife of Sir William Willoughby, who was sheriff of the county in 1603. There are some memorials for the families of Clayton, Chase, &c. In the chancel are a few brass plates, one of which commemorates some children of Sir John Salisbury, who died in 1383.

The rectory was appropriated by John Russell, bishop of Lincoln, in 1494, to the abbot and convent of Tewksbury, after the dissolution of which monastery it was given to the dean and chapter of Gloucester, together with the advowson of the vicarage. Part of the ancient rectorial house still remains, the great hall is now used as a kitchen. The sum of 8*ol.* *per annum* is paid to the vicar out of the impropriation. Mrs. Hawes, in 1749, gave a rent-charge of 1*ol.* *per annum* to the vicar. Mr. Drewe gave 2*ol.* *per annum* for a lecture on Tuesdays or Thursdays. This lectureship has been usually held by the vicar. Anthony Ellys, bishop of St. David's, was vicar of Marlow from 1729 to 1753.

The book of church-wardens' accounts in this parish, makes mention of a sum of money, disbursed for throwing in the bulwarks about the church and in Duck-lane, and cleaning the church after the soldiers had been quartered in it, in 1642. This was, when the parliamentary army, under the command of Major-General Brown, was quartered at Marlow. The sum of five shillings appears to have been

paid to the ringers, when the unfortunate monarch passed through the town as a prisoner, in 1647.

Sir William Borlase founded a free-school in Marlow, in the year 1624, for 24 boys, three of whom are to be of Medmenham, three of Little-Marlow, and the remainder of this town. The master has a salary of 16*l. per annum*, a house, garden, and a large pasture field. An apprentice fee of 40*s.* is given to each boy when he leaves the school. Sir William founded also a house of correction, and a school for 24 girls, who were to be taught to spin, sew, and make lace, but this institution has not been kept up.

John Brinkhurst, in 1608 founded alms-houses for four poor widows, two more have since been added, out of the savings of the estate, which now produces 42*l. per annum*. There are several other benefactions belonging to the town, the most important is that of 1000*l.* left by Mr. Loftin in 1759, for the purpose of apprenticing poor children.

There has been a bridge over the Thames at Marlow from a very early period. Mention is made of it in a record of the reign of Edward III. Part of Marlow bridge was destroyed by General Brown, when his army was quartered in the town in 1642, in consequence of which, parliament issued a warrant for a county rate to repair it. The present bridge, which is of wood, was built by subscription in the year 1789.

The second department^b of the Royal Military College, a more particular account of which will be found under High-Wycombe, has been for some years placed at Great Marlow; where it is intended to remain till the building about to be erected for the whole establishment, at Sandhurst, in Berkshire, shall be completed.

LITTLE-MARLOW, in the hundred of Desborough and deanery of Wycombe, lies two miles to the north-east of Great-Marlow. At this place was a small convent of Benedictine nuns, said to have been founded by Geoffrey Lord Spencer, before the reign of King John, in honor of the Virgin Mary. Its revenues were valued in 1534, at 23*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.* *per annum*: it was then given to Bisham Abbey. The general dissolution of monasteries followed within a few years, when the site of the convent at Marlow was granted to Tytley and Restwold. Browne Willis describes the chapel and hall of this nunnery, as remaining in his time. The hall, which was 60 feet in length, was pulled down in 1740. There are now no remains of the conventual buildings.

^b Intended for the instruction of those who, at an early age, are designed for the military profession.

The manor of Little-Marlow, which had belonged to the nunnery, after passing, within a short period, through several hands, was purchased about the year 1560, by the family of Borlase, who had a feat here, and another at Bockmer, in the parish of Medmenham. The elder branch of this family became extinct, by the death of Sir John Borlase bart. in 1688. His daughter married Arthur Warren esq. whose great-grandson, Admiral Sir John Borlase Warren bart. K. B. sold the manor of Little-Marlow in 1781, to the guardians of William Lee Antonie esq. M. P. the present proprietor, then a minor.

The manor of Danvers, in this parish, so called from an ancient family who possessed it in the thirteenth century, is now also the property of Mr. Lee Antonie. A manor in Little-Marlow, (perhaps the same) was formerly in the Mowbrays and Berkeleys: it was given, with other estates, by the Marquis of Berkeley, to Sir Reginald Bray^a.

Westthorp-house, the feat of Thomas Wilkinson esq. was built by James Chase esq. member for Marlow, in the reigns of King William and Queen Anne: it was rented of his widow by Dr. Maddox, bishop of Worcester, and was afterwards the feat of Sir Everard Faulkener, Ambassador to the Porte, and one of the post-masters-General.

In the parish church is an altar-tomb, with brass plates, for Nicholas Ledwich, founder either of the church or chancel, as appears by his epitaph. He died in 1430. There are some memorials also for the families of Chase and Warren.

In ancient times the benefice of Little Marlow was in mediocres, and the church was served alternately by two rectors. In 1342, the great tithes were appropriated to the priory: they are now the property of Mr. Lee Antonie, who is patron of the vicarage. The present vicar is the Rev. Thomas Martyn, regius professor of Botany in the university of Cambridge.

MARSH-GIBWEN; in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies on the borders of Oxfordshire, about four miles and a half to the east of Bicester. It received its additional name from the ancient family of Gibwen, who were of considerable consequence in the county, in the thirteenth century, and had estates in this parish. The principal manor was given by Robert, Earl of Cornwall, to the abbey of Grestein, in Normandy. About the year 1365, having been seized by the crown as the property of an alien monastery, it was granted to the De la Poles. William De la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, and Alice, his wife, gave it to the hospital of Ewelme, in Oxfordshire, the mastership of which was annexed in 1603 to the

^a Rol. Parl. VI. 529.

Regius professorship of physic, in the university of Oxford, in whom, jointly with the grammar-master and thirteen poor men, the manor is now vested, but all the business relating to it, is transacted in the name of the two chaplains and thirteen poor men^k. Near the manor-house are some slight traces of entrenchments, supposed to have been thrown up by the parliamentary army, when they marched to Marsh-Gibwen, in the month of June 1645^b.

The Bury-manor, or manor of Westbury, in this parish, belonged also to the abbey of Grestein, (by grant from the Montacutes.) Having escheated to the crown, as the property of an alien house, it was given by King Edward IV. to the Company of Cooks, in London, who sold it, in 1530, to Robert Dormer: it has since passed through several hands, and is now the property of Mr. Dixon. The advowson of the rectory belonged formerly to the Abbey of Grestein, it is now in the crown.

FLEET-MARSTON, in the hundred of Ashendon and deanery of Waddeston, lies about three miles from Aylesbury, on the road to Bicester. The manor, which was for many years in the Lees, has been lately purchased of their representative, Lord Dillon, by James Dupré esq. of Wilton Park. The advowson of the rectory being then the property of John Tirrel-Morin esq. was advertised for sale in the month of May 1805.

NORTH-MARSTON, in the hundred of Ashendon and deanery of Waddeston, lies nearly four miles south of Winslow. The manor is held under Magdalen College, in Oxford; the lease is now vested in Francis Wastie esq. his first wife having been representative of the Saunders family, who were for many years lessees. The church is a handsome Gothic structure; there is a tradition that the chancel was built with the offerings at the shrine of Sir John Schorne, a very devout man, of great veneration with the people, who was rector of North-Marston about the year 1290, and it is said, that the place became populous and flourishing in consequence of the great resort of persons to a well, which he had blessed. This story stands upon a better foundation than most vulgar traditions; the great tithes of North-Marston are still appropriated to the dean and canons of Windfor, who, before the reformation, might without difficulty have rebuilt the chancel, as it is very probable they did, with the offerings at the shrine of Sir John Schorne, for we are told that they were so productive, that on an average they amounted to 500*l. per annum*^c, (equal at least to 5000*l.* according to the present value of money.) Sir John Schorne,

^k From the information of Sir Christopher Pegge M. P. R.

¹ See Heath's Chronicle, p. 77.

^c History of Windfor, p. 111.

therefore, although his name is not to be found, appears to have been a saint of no small reputation. The common people in the neighbourhood still keep up his memory by many traditional stories: Browne Willis^d says, that in his time there were people who remembered a direction-post standing, which pointed the way to Sir John Schorne's shrine.

Mr. Nield, lessee of the great tithes under the church of Windsor, is patron of the curacy. The parish was inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1778, when an allotment of land was assigned to the impropriator, in lieu of tithes, and a small allotment to the poor for fuel.

MARSWORTH, in the hundred of Cotflow and deanery of Muresley, lies about seven miles east of Aylesbury, on the borders of Hertfordshire, part of which county is nearly surrounded by Buckinghamshire. Sir John Cobham having surrendered the manor of Marfworth to King Edward III. that monarch gave it to his shield-bearer, Thomas Cheney^e, ancestor of the Cheneys of Drayton-Beauchamp, it reverted not long afterwards to the crown by surrender or exchange. King Richard II. granted it to the family of Brian, who, about 1570, sold the whole, or a part of it, to the Wests. There are now three manors; Marfworth-De la Hay, the property of Mrs. Henrietta Seare; in whose family it has been many years; Marfworth *cum* Goldington, the property of Sir Drummond Smith bart. who purchased it of Charles Orlando Gore esq. of Tring Park; and another manor belonging to St. Thomas's hospital.

In the parish church are some monuments of the families of West and Seare. The last heir male of the Wests died in 1700. On an altar-tomb belonging to this family, is an engraved brass plate, on which is represented a man in armour, lying on a bed, Death striking him with his dart, his wife and children kneeling by the bedside, and a divine in his canonicals at the foot of the bed.

The great tithes of this parish are vested in the master and scholars of Trinity College, in Cambridge, who are patrons of the vicarage. Sir Drummond Smith is lessee of the great tithes under the college.

MEDMENHAM, in the hundred of Desborough and deanery of Wycombe, lies about three miles from Marlow, on the road to Henley. At this place was an abbey of Cistercian monks, founded by Hugh de Bolebec, as a cell to the larger monastery of Woburn, which was also of his foundation. The royal charter was not obtained till the year 1200, which was after the founder's death. Its revenues, which consisted chiefly of the manor and rectory of Medmenham, were valued

^d See his MS. Collections in the Bodleian Library.

^e Pat. 38 Edw. III.

in 1536, at 20l. 6s. 2d. *per annum*. The abbey, with its possessions, was then given to the abbot and convent of Bisham; the general dissolution of monasteries, taking place shortly afterwards, the manor of Medmenham, and the site of the abbey, were granted in 1547, to Thomas and Robert Moore; this estate was conveyed by the Moores in 1558 to the family of Duffield, who resided at the abbey, and continued in possession till 1778, when the site of the abbey was purchased by John Morton esq. chief justice of Chester, and was sold by his widow, in 1786, to the present proprietor, Robert Scott esq. Browne Willis speaks of part of the north aisle of the conventual church, as standing in his time; part of a single column only is now to be seen. Some buildings, in imitation of ruins, have been of late years erected on the site of the abbey, and are now almost overgrown with ivy.

Danesfield, the seat of Robert Scott esq. so called from an ancient circular entrenchment of that name near the house, was the property of John Morton esq. above-mentioned. It stands in a beautiful situation, on a bank which overhangs the river.

The manor of Brock, or Medmenham, which was retained by the founder, passed by female heirs to the families of Vere, Warren, Fitz-alan and Beauchamp. It was afterwards in the Poles; and after having been several times forfeited and restored, was given, in 1553, to the Rices, of whom it was purchased, in 1560, by John Borlase esq. Having passed with Little-Marlow, to Sir John Borlase Warren K. B. it was sold, in 1781, to the guardians of William Lee Antonie esq. the present proprietor. The Borlases had a seat at Bockmer, in this parish, now a farm.

An estate in Medmenham, called Whittington farm, was forfeited to the crown in the reign of Charles I. and at the instance of Archbishop Laud given to the university of Oxford, for the maintenance of scholars from the islands of Guernsey and Jersey: it is now held on lease by Sir William Clayton, at a reserved rent of 20l. *per annum*.

In the parish church are some memorials of the Duffields. The impropriation of the great tithes, and advowson of the vicarage, have passed with the abbey estate, and are now the property of Mr. Scott. The vicar has the great tithes of 500 acres of land. At *Hallowick*, near Wood-end, a hamlet of this parish, was formerly a chapel.

MENTMORE, in the hundred of Cotflow and deanery of Murefley, lies about eight miles to the north-east of Aylesbury. The manor was anciently in the families of Bussel and Zouche: in 1490 it was granted to Sir Reginald Bray, from whom it descended, by a female heir, to the family of Sandys: in 1729, it was
purchased

purchased with the manor of Leadbourne, by Lord Viscount Limerick, of a Mr. Legoe, who inherited them from the family of Wigg. They are now the property of Richard Bard Harcourt esq. who purchased them of Lord Limerick's son, James Earl of Clanbrassil. In the church are some memorials of the families of Theed and Wigg.

The impropriate rectory, which was given by the Buffells to the priory of St. Bartholomew, in Smithfield, is now the property of Mr. Harcourt, who is patron of the vicarage.

MIDDLETON, or MILTON-KEYNES, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies about four miles south of Newport-Pagnell, and about a mile out of the road from that town to London. It acquired its additional name from the ancient family of Keynes, who possessed the manor. William de Keynes, Lord of this manor, was the person who took King Stephen prisoner, at the battle of Lincoln. From him this estate passed by female heirs to the families of Aylebury and Stafford. It was purchased of the latter by Lord Chancellor Nottingham, from whom it descended to the present proprietor, George Earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham.

In the parish church is the tomb of Lewis Atterbury, rector of this parish, who died in 1693. He was father of the celebrated bishop Atterbury, who was born at Milton-Keynes on the 6th, and baptized on the 17th of March, 1662, as appears by the parish-register.

The Earl of Winchelsea is patron of the rectory. Dr. Wotton, a learned critic and antiquary, was rector of this parish, from 1693, till his death, which happened in 1726; his *Reflections on Ancient and Modern Learning* were written at Milton, the year after he became possessed of the rectory.

GREAT-MISSENDEN, in the hundred of Aylebury and deanery of Wendover, lies about half-way between Wendover and Amersham, on the road to London. At this place was an abbey of black canons, the history of the foundation of which is involved in some uncertainty. An inquisition taken on oath, in the year 1331, states that it was founded in 1293, by Sir William de Missenden^f; although it might be supposed that there could be little doubt of the authority of so solemn a record of a fact, then so recent, yet there is good reason for supposing that the abbey existed at an earlier period. An old register of the convent dates its foundation in 1133^g. An ancient court-book of the manor says that it was founded by the Doyleys, and augmented by the Missendens, pursuant to a vow, made on escaping from ship-

^f Dugdale's *Monast. I.* 542.

^g Tanner.

wreck. It is probable therefore that the benefactions of Sir William de Miffenden, in 1293, were of such importance, and the former income of the convent so small, that it was looked upon as a second foundation, and that he was even in his own time called and deemed the founder, as bishop Rotheram is even now called the second founder of Lincoln College, in Oxford. Sir William de Miffenden, among other benefactions, gave the manor of this place to the abbey, and his family were its patrons. The patronage was afterwards in the Brudenells^h. The revenues of Miffenden abbey were estimated, in 1534, at 261l. 14s. 6¼d. clear yearly value. It appears that John Otewell, the last abbot, upon quitting the monastic life, renounced the state of celibacy, for by his last will, bearing date 1558, he makes his wife margaret Otewell, *alias* Westwick, sole executrix, and bequeaths legacies to his son Samuel, and his daughter Lettice. The abbot had a pension of 50l. *per annum* assigned him, at the dissolution of the monastery; Thomas Barnard, one of the monks, had the vicarage of Miffenden given him in lieu of a pension; John Slythurst had a pension of 8l. *per annum*, on condition of undertaking to officiate at the chapel of the Lee. The site of Miffenden abbey, with the manor of Miffenden and other lands, were granted on lease to Richard Greneway, and afterwards to Richard Hampden esq. clerk of the king's kitchen. In 1553, the fee was granted to John Duke of Northumberland, and in 1573, (having reverted to the crown by the duke's attainder) to Robert Earl of Leicester. Not long afterwards, this estate was purchased by Sir William Fleetwood, recorder of London, an antiquary and historian, who made Miffenden abbey his residence. It continued in his male descendants till the beginning of the last century, after which, it passed by female heirs to the families of Ansell and Goostrey. After the death of the late Thomas Goostrey esq. it was purchased under a decree of chancery, in the year 1787, by the present proprietor, J. Oldham Oldham esq. by whom the house has been modernized, and nearly rebuilt. Browne Willis mentionsⁱ some arches belonging to the conventual buildings, which appeared to have been part of the Chapter-house. These arches, or a part of them, have been used in forming a recess at each end of a green-house. They have groined roofs, with rich ornaments in the center. The pillars have scalloped capitals.

Peterley-House, in this parish, an ancient seat of the Dormer family, is still the property of Lord Dormer, but has not been inhabited by the family for many years. It is now occupied as an academy. Lord Dormer gives a deputation for his lands

^h Collins's Peerage.

ⁱ See his MS. Collections.

in Peterley and Stone. Mr. Oldham also gives a deputation for the manor of Peterley and Stone, which belonged to Miffenden abbey, and for the manors of Netherbury and Overbury, which were also part of their possessions. Netherbury was granted to the abbey in 1383.

The parish church of Miffenden is a handsome Gothic building. On the north side of the chancel, about seven feet from the ground, is a row of pointed arches, with small pillars, detached from the wall. There are several monuments of the family of Boys, one of which exhibits a bust of the deceased, under a circular arch, composed of books. Among some ancient brass plates, which in 1801 had been removed, during the repairs of the chancel, was, one of Thomas Clement, Woolman, and Butcher, 1445. Mr. Oldham is impropriator of the great tithes, which belonged to Miffenden abbey, and patron of the vicarage.

John Randal, an eminent divine in the reign of James I. was a native of this place.

LITTLE-MISSENDEN, in the hundred of Aylebury and deanery of Wendover, lies about two miles from Great-Miffenden, and three from Amersham, on the road to London.

The manor of Beaumont and Afflecks, in this parish, and a manor, which belonged formerly to Miffenden abbey, are now the property of Lord Curzon, by inheritance from the Penns. The manor of Maunsells, in this parish, derives its name from an ancient family, who possessed it in the reign of Henry III. It has of late years passed with Shardeloes, and is now the property of Mr. Drake. The manor of Holmer belonged to the Longespees, Earls of Salisbury, and passed, by a female heir, to the Lacys, Earls of Lincoln; it was afterwards given to Burnham abbey: being in the crown in the reign of James I. it was granted in 1623, to Edward Ramsey, whose relation, the Earl of Holderness, sold it to the Styles; it passed afterwards, by a female heir, to the family of Harris, and having since undergone two or three alienations, is now the property of Lord Curzon. The manor of Thorne-Fee, or Brand-Fee, in this parish, which extends to Wycombe heath, was many years in the family of Brand, who possessed it as lately as the year 1791: it is now the property of John Field esq. The Earl of Stirling had a feat at Little-Miffenden, in the early part of the last century.

In the parish church are some monuments of the family of Style of Holmer. Lord Curzon has the impropriation of the great tithes, which belonged to Miffenden abbey, and is patron of the vicarage.

MAIDS-

MAIDS-MORTON, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies about a mile north of the county town. The principal manor of this place belonged anciently to the Giffards, Earls of Buckingham, from whom it passed to the noble families of Clare, Audley, and Stafford. The Marquis of Buckingham claims this paramount manor, to which no lands are annexed, as lord of the honour of Gloucester.

The manor of Greenhams, in this parish, took its name from a family who possessed it in the reign of Henry IV. Not long afterwards, it became vested in the crown, and was granted, in 1442, to All Souls College, in Oxford. Another manor in this parish belonged to Osney abbey, and was granted, after the reformation, to Christ's Church College, in the same university. Both these manors were for many years on lease to the family of Bate. Edward Oakley Gray esq. is the present lessee of Greenhams; the marquis of Buckingham, of the Christ-Church manor, the lease of which was purchased of Samuel Churchill, in 1802.

George Moore esq. of Maids-Morton, was created a baronet in 1665: the title became extinct at his death.

The parish church is a handsome Gothic structure, built about the year 1450, by some of the Peyvre family, who possessed the advowson. The tradition is, that it was built by two maiden sisters, daughters of the last heir male of the Peyvre family, and that the village was thence called Maid's-Morton. The porch and the belfry have groined roofs: in the chancel are three elegant stone stalls, with rich Gothic canopies. There are some memorials of the family of Bate: the celebrated Dr. George Bate, who was chief physician to King Charles I. Oliver Cromwell, and King Charles II. was born at Maids-Morton, where he was baptized Nov. 23, 1607: his father was rector of the parish.

The advowson of the rectory was for many years in the Peyvres, and their heirs, the Broughtons; at a later period, in the family of Bate; it is now the joint property of the Rev. James Long Hutton (who is the present rector) and his brother, Francis Turner Richard Hutton Long esq. their father purchased of the Sandwells.

The parish register records the circumstance of the cross having been cut from the top of the steeple, in 1642, by Col. Purefoy's soldiers, (then quartered in Buckingham,) and the firmness of the rector, Matthew Bate, who, in defiance of the orders of parliament, christened children during the whole of the protectorate of Cromwell, and performed the marriage ceremony according to the rites of the church of England.

This parish has been inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1801, when an allotment of land was assigned to the rector, in lieu of tithes, and an allotment to the poor in lieu of furze.

MULSO, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies on the borders of Bedfordshire, about three miles south-east of Newport-Pagnell. The manor was anciently in the Giffards, Earls of Buckingham; afterwards successively in the families of Cowdray, Talbot, Whittingham, and Verney. Being vested in the crown, (probably by an exchange,) it was annexed to the honor of Ampthill, and afterwards granted to Sir John Spencer, from whose family it passed by marriage to the Comptons. It is now the property of Lord Carrington, who purchased it in 1801, of the Earl of Northampton, together with the advowson of the rectory, which formerly belonged to the priory of Goring. An act of parliament, for inclosing the parish, passed in 1802, when an allotment was given in lieu of tithes to the rector, and a deduction made from it, in consideration of its being exonerated from poor-rates: the parish was estimated to contain 1600 acres.

MURESLEY, in the deanery of that name, and in the hundred of Cotflow, lies about four miles nearly west of Winslow: it had formerly a market on Thursdays, granted to the prior of Snellshall, in 1230. Warren Fitzgerald had another charter for a market on Wednesdays, in 1243, and a fair on the festival of the assumption of the Virgin Mary. This charter was renewed to John Duke of Bedford, who had a grant of another fair on the nativity of the Blessed Virgin. Both the market and fairs, which have now been long discontinued, were again renewed to Robert Whittingham, in 1449.

The manor was anciently in the Giffards, Earls of Buckingham, afterwards in the Fitzgeralds, from whom it passed, by a female heir, to the family of Nowers.

The manor of Salden, which seems to have included that of Muresley, having been seized by the crown on the attainder of Sir Robert Tresilian, was granted, in 1402, to John Duke of Bedford^a, on whose death it was sold by the king to Cardinal Beaufort: in 1439, it was conveyed to Robert Whittingham, squire of the household^b, and confirmed to him by the king's patent in 1449^c: after this the manors of Muresley and Salden appear to have been separated: Sir Ralph Verney, who inherited both from the Whittinghams by female descent, sold Salden about the year 1580 to Sir John Fortescue, from whose family it passed by marriage to the family of Gage: it is now the property of Lord Eardley, who purchased it of

^a Pat. 4 Hen. IV.

^b Rol. Parl. VI. 317.

^c Pat. 28 Hen. VI.

his brother-in-law, Lord Gage: Muresley continued to be the property of the Verneys, nearly a century longer, having been purchased by the Fortescues in the year 1664.

Salden-house, which has been pulled down several years, was a noble mansion, built by Sir John Fortescue, chancellor of the exchequer, who was honoured with a visit here by King James I. soon after his accession to the throne. The cost of the building is said to have been about 33,000*l*. Sir John Fortescue, who died in 1656, was created a baronet of Nova Scotia: the title became extinct on the death of Sir Francis Fortescue, in 1729.

In the parish church are monuments of Sir John Fortescue, chancellor of the exchequer, who died in 1607; Sir Francis Fortescue, K. B. and others of the family. Lord Eardley is patron of the rectory.

NEWENTON, or NEWTON-BLOSSOMVILLE, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies on the borders of Bedfordshire, about four miles west of Olney. The manor passed from the Blossomvilles, who possessed it at the time of the Norman survey, by female heirs, to the families of Druel and Swinford. The noble family of Stafford were lords of the manor at a later period, till the attainder of the Duke of Buckingham, after which, it was granted to Walter Devereux, Earl of Essex. Being again vested in the crown, it was granted to Thomas Crompton, who soon afterwards conveyed it to Lord Mordaunt. In 1649, it was purchased of the Mordaunt family, by an ancestor of the late William Farrer esq. whose grandson, Farrer Grove Spurgeon Farrer esq. of Cold Brayfield, is the present proprietor, and patron of the rectory.

NEWENTON, or NEWTON-LONGUEVILLE, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies about three miles and a half to the south-west of Fenny-Stratford. An alien priory of Cluniac monks, subordinate to the priory of Longueville, in Normandy, was founded at this place in the reign of Henry I. and suppressed in 1415. In 1442, King Henry VI. gave the priory and most of its lands (among which was the manor of Newenton, given to the priory by Walter Giffard, Earl of Buckingham) to the warden and scholars of New College, in Oxford.

The parish church was rebuilt by the college, soon after they became possessed of the manor, and advowson of the rectory. At the east end of the chancel, on the outside, is a figure of St. Faith, to whom the priory was dedicated. In the chancel are two *piscinæ*, on one of which are the arms of William of Wickham, the founder

of New College, and some other coats. The learned Grocyn, tutor to Erasmus, was rector of this parish.

NEWPORT-PAGNELL, which gives name to the hundred and deanery in which it stands, is 51 miles distant from London, on the road to Northampton. It has been a town of considerable consequence, from a remote period: the assizes for the county were occasionally held here, from the reign of Henry III. to that of Henry VI. A market at Newport-Pagnell was either originally granted, or confirmed by charter, in 1270, to Roger de Somery, together with a fair for eight days, to commence on the festival of St. Luke: the market was again confirmed to John Botetort, in 1333^d: the market-day is Saturday. There are now six fairs, held annually; February 22, April 22, June 22, August 29, October 22, and December 22.

In the early part of the civil war, between King Charles and the parliament, Newport was garrisoned by Prince Rupert; but on the approach of the Earl of Essex, not long after the first battle of Newbury, in 1643, it was abandoned by Sir Lewis Dyve^e, and taken possession of for the parliament, to whom it proved a very useful garrison, during the remainder of the war. Sir Samuel Luke, supposed to have been the Hudibras of Butler, was its governor in the year 1645, when the sum of 80*l.* a month was voted by parliament, for the support of the garrison.

At the time of the Norman conquest, Newport was the property of William Fitzansculf, a powerful baron, ancestor of the Paganells or Pagnells, who gave their name to the place. From them it passed, by female heirs, to the families of Somery, Botetort, Burnell, and Bermingham. Of the latter, it was purchased by the Botelers. This manor having become vested in the crown, on the attainder of James Boteler, Earl of Wiltshire, was granted, in 1462, to Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick^f, and in 1471, to George Duke of Clarence. It was afterwards restored to the St. Legers, as being representatives of the Botelers in the female line. In 1627, this manor, which had been again vested in the crown, by an exchange with the St. Legers, was granted to Sir Francis Annesley, whose family had been settled at Newport, as early as 1558. Arthur Annesley was created, in 1661, Baron Annesley, of Newport-Pagnell, and Earl of Anglesey. From him the manor of Newport descended to its present proprietor, the Earl of Mount-Norris. The profits of the market and fairs have always been annexed to the manor.

The Paganells had a castle at Newport, the site of which is still called the Castle-mead; but there were no remains of the building even in Camden's time.

^e Pat. 7 Edw. III.

^f Clarendon's History, 8vo. edit. II. 392, and Heath's Chronicle, p. 55.

^g Pat. 2 Edw. IV.

Fulk Paganell, in the reign of William Rufus, founded a cell of Cluniac monks at Tickford, adjoining to this town, and gave them the manor of that place. This house was subordinate to the abbey of St. Martin, *Majoris Monasterii*, commonly called Marmonstiers, at Tours, and was seized as an alien priory, by King Edward III. during the wars with France. It was restored by King Henry IV. and made subject to the priory of the Holy Trinity, in York. King Henry VIII. suppressed this monastery in 1525, (its revenues being then estimated at 126l. 17s. *per annum*;) and gave it, with all its lands, to Cardinal Wolsey. After the Cardinal's fall, it was given to Christ Church college, in Oxford, but afterwards resumed by the crown. It is said to have been sold by King James I. to Dr. Atkins, his physician; it is more probable that it was given him as a remuneration for his attendance, in Scotland, on his son, Prince Charles, when he recovered of a dangerous fever; for which we are told that he was amply rewarded, and offered a baronet's patent, which he refused. The priory was one of the seats of his posterity, who were afterwards baronets by a patent, bearing date 1660: their chief residence was at Clapham, in Surrey. Tickford Abbey is now the property of Mr. Hooton: there are no remains of the conventual buildings. Mr. Hooton's family have a burial place in a retired part of the garden belonging to their dwelling-house, which is supposed to have been the cemetery of the priory: an obelisk has been erected there, in memory of the late Mrs. Hooton.

Tickford Park, and the manor of Tickford-end, were sold by the Atkins' family to the Uthwatts, and by them to Sir William Hart: it is now the property of Mr. Vanhagen, in right of his wife, whose first husband purchased it of the heirs of Sir William Hart.

The manor of *Caldecot*, (a hamlet of this parish,) which belonged also to the priory of Tickford, was sold by the Atkins' family, in 1758, to William Backwell esq. a banker in London. Mr. Backwell, in 1769, bequeathed it to William Harwood, who has assumed the name of Backwell, and is the present proprietor.

The parish church, which is a spacious Gothic edifice, contains no monuments of note. In the church-yard is the following epitaph, written by Cowper, the poet, on Thomas Abbott Hamilton, who died July 7, 1788.

“ Pause here, and think a monitory rhyme
Demands one moment of thy fleeting time.
Consult life's silent clock; thy bounding vein
Seems it to say, health here has long to reign?
Hast thou the vigour of thy youth? an eye
That beams delight? a heart untaught to sigh?”

Yet

Yet fear; youth oftimes healthful and at ease
 Anticipates a day it never sees,
 And many a tomb, like Hamilton's, aloud
 Proclaims, prepare thee for an early shroud."

W. COWPER.

The great tithes, which were given by Fulk Paganell to the priory of Tickford, now belong to the Earl of Mount-Norris and Mr. Vanhagen. The vicarage is in the gift of the crown. The vicar is always master of an ancient hospital, originally founded by John de Somery, and dedicated to St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist, in the reign of Edward I. and refounded by Anne of Denmark, Queen of James I. for a master, three poor men, and three poor women. Its revenues were rated, in 1534, at 6l. 6s. 8d. *per annum*. The rents are now about 70l. *per annum*. Portfield, in Newport Pagnell, was inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1794: the tithes were to continue as before, but power was given to persons entitled to them, to take a compensation either in land or otherwise. A close in North Crawley was given, by a benefactor now unknown, to the widow of the vicar of this parish: when there is no vicar's widow living, the profits are appropriated to the apprenticing of poor children.

In the year 1240, which was before the foundation of St. John's hospital above-mentioned, there were two hospitals at Newport-Pagnell, called St. Margaret's and the New Hospital, of which we have no later accounts. Dr. Lewis Atterbury, (brother of the bishop of Rochester,) who was born at *Caldecot*, gave the sum of 10l. *per annum* to a school-mistress, for teaching 20 girls to write, read, and sew plain work.

Mr. John Revis, in 1763, founded and endowed seven alms-houses (for four poor men and three women) who receive 10l. *per annum* each, besides clothes and fuel.

OAKLEY, in the hundred of Ashendon and deanery of Waddeston, lies on the borders of Oxfordshire, about seven miles north-west of Thame. A manor in this parish, which was formerly in the family of Pole, is now the property of the Duke of Marlborough; the manor of Oakley was claimed by the late Mrs. Crewe, as an appendage of her manor of Shabbington, now belonging to her son-in-law, Lord Viscount Falmouth. At the time of the Norman survey, two hides in Oakley were held by a young lady, to whom they had been given by Godic the sheriff, for teaching his daughter to work gold embroidery.

The manor of *Studley*, a hamlet in this parish, which lies partly in Oxfordshire, is the property of Alexander Croke esq. a descendant of the celebrated Sir George Croke,

Croke, who founded a chapel and hospital in the adjoining village of Beckley. Mr. Croke's seat is in Oxfordshire.

In the parish church are some monuments of the Tyrrells of Oakley, descended from Sir Timothy Tyrrell, of Shotover, master of the buckhounds to King James I. eldest son, by a second marriage, of Sir Edward Tyrrell, of Thornton, knt. and half-brother of Sir Edward Tyrrell, who was created a baronet in 1627. Among the monuments of this family at Oakley, are memorials of Sir Timothy Tyrrell, governor of Cardiff Castle, and general of the Ordnance for South Wales, who died in 1701, aged 81; his wife Elizabeth, one of the daughters and co-heirs of Archbishop Usher; Captain John Tyrrell of the navy, who died in 1692, having distinguished himself by his services in the East Indies, and been made an admiral in those seas; and James Tyrrell esq. author of the General History of England, who sold the family estate at Oakley; he was one of the commissioners at the peace of Ryfwick, and was buried at Oakley in 1745. In Oakley church also is the monument of Baron Schutz, of Shotover, who died in 1757, and others of that family.

The rectory of this parish was given by the Empress Maud to the canons of St. Frideswide at Oxford, to whom the great tithes were appropriated: they are now the property of Sir John Aubrey, who is patron of the vicarage.

Oakley was formerly the mother-church of Brill, Borstall, and Addingrave. The two first have been made separate parishes. *Addingrave*, still a hamlet of this parish, had a chapel of ease, which has been suffered to fall to ruins.

OKENEY, or EKENEY, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lay a little to the south of Olney. The village is quite depopulated, not a single house remains; its site is denoted by some broken and uneven ground, but the spot where the church stood is not known. The manor was successively in the families of Somery, Ekeney, and Chamberlayne; of the latter it was purchased by Lincoln College, in Oxford, under which society it has been held on lease by the families of Norton, Martin, and Park. The lease is now vested in the representatives of the late Robert Pomfret, rector of the neighbouring parish of Emberton: the great tithes and advowson belong to Lincoln College: the land-holders are assessed to the poor rates of Emberton.

OLNEY, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies in the north part of the county, near the borders of Northamptonshire, 56 miles distant from London. It has a small market on Mondays, and two annual fairs, Easter Monday, and June 29. That on the 29th of June, being the festival of St. Peter, was granted in the

year 1315^f. A fire happened in this town in the year 1786, when forty-three houses were burnt down. According to the returns made to parliament under the population act in 1801, the town of Olney then contained 451 houses, of which 444 were inhabited: the number of inhabitants was 2003; of these, 872 were males, and 1131 females: sixty-six persons were chiefly employed in agriculture, and 1928 in trade, manufacture, and handicraft. Lace-making is carried on to a great extent in this town and neighbourhood.

The manor was anciently in the Earls of Chester, from whom it passed successively to the families of Albini and Bassett. Upon the attainder of Thomas Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, who was one of the co-heirs of the Bassetts, it was granted in 1397 to Thomas Moubray, afterwards created Duke of Norfolk; and upon his banishment, the reversion, after the death of Lady Bassett, to whom this manor had been assigned in dower, was granted to Edward Duke of York^g, who fell at the battle of Agincourt: dying without male issue, this manor reverted to the crown, and was not alienated till the year 1638, when it was sold by King Charles I. to certain citizens of London. It now belongs to the Earl of Dartmouth, having been inherited from his mother, the late Countess Dowager, heiress of Sir Charles Gunter Nicholl, in whose family it had been a considerable time. The manor of Warrington, a hamlet of this parish, which was given by Lord Bassett of Drayton to the neighbouring abbey of Lavendon, has of late years been held with Olney, to which it had formerly been annexed before Lord Bassett's donation.

The church is a handsome Gothic building, with a stone spire, 185 feet in height. There was formerly a chapel in the church-yard, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, in which was a chantry, founded by Lord Bassett. The great tithes of Olney were appropriated to the abbess and convent of Sion. In 1620, Sir Robert Gorges, being then impropriator and patron, endowed the vicarage with a stipend of 46l. 13s. 4d. *per annum*, charged on the great tithes, in addition to the ancient stipend, which was only 20 marks. The rectory and advowson were afterwards in the family of Johnson, from whom they passed to the Nicholls, and are now the property of the Earl of Dartmouth. Moses Browne, author of *Piscatory Eclogues*, and other works, who, from the humble occupation of a pen-cutter, rose by his own merit to the station of a respectable divine of the Church of England, was vicar of Olney. Cowper the poet resided for some time at Olney, from whence he removed to the neighbouring village of Weston-Underwood.

^f Cart. 9 Edw. II.

^g Pat. 22 Rich. II.

The parish of Olney has been inclosed by an act of parliament passed in 1767; when an allotment was assigned to the impropiator in lieu of tithes and the vicar's stipend was increased to 70*l*.

OVING, in the hundred of Ashendon and deanery of Wendover, lies about six miles north-west of Aylesbury, and about a mile to the west of the road from that town to Buckingham. The manor of Oving, was purchased, in 1735, of the family of Collins, by Francis Tyringham esq. after whose death it devolved to his elder sister Parnell, wife of Charles Pilsworth esq. M. P. for Aylesbury, who resided at Oving. Some time after Mr. Pilsworth's death it was sold to the late Richard Hopkins esq. one of the lords Commissioners of the Treasury, and was bequeathed by him to Colonel Richard Northey, who has since taken the name of Hopkins in addition, and has now the rank of major-general. The manor-house being situated on the brow of a hill forms a conspicuous object in the vale of Aylesbury. Another manor in Oving has passed with North Marston, and is now held under Magdalen college, in Oxford, by Francis Wastie esq. The rectory is in the gift of the crown.

PADBURY, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies about three miles from Buckingham on the road to London. The manor was, till the year 1313, in the descendants of Maigno, the Briton, who held it at the time of the Norman Survey: they were barons of Wolverton, near Stony-Stratford, and took their surname from that place. In the year 1344, a partition being made between the co-heiresses of John de Wolverton, this manor was assigned to Hugh Wake, who married his daughter Joan^h. Having become vested in the crown it was granted, in 1442, to All Souls' college in Oxford, and still belongs to that society. This manor was held under the college for some years by the families of Abell and Salisbury: the lease is now vested in the Rev. James Eyre of Buckingham. The impropriate rectory, at present in severalties, belonged to the priory of Bradwell, and after the suppression of that house, in 1526, was given to the monastery of Shene: the vicarage is in the gift of the crown. This parish has been inclosed by an act of parliament passed in 1795, when allotments of land were assigned to the impropiators and to the vicar.

The gallant Sir Charles Lucas being quartered at Padbury, with a party of the King's troops, in the beginning of July, 1643, defeated a detachment of the parliamentary army under Col. Middleton, who attempted to surprize him in his

^h Placit, &c. de terris in com. Bucks. in Turr. London, No. 16.

quarters. The burial of eight foldiers is entered in the register on the second of that month.

A bridge at Padbury was built, by act of parliament, in 1742, and made a county bridge.

PENN, in the hundred and deanery of Burnham, lies about three miles north-west of Beaconsfield, and nearly four miles east of High-Wycombe. Penn (as its name, signifying the head, or top, implies) stands on very high ground: the counties of Berks, Oxford, Bedford, Herts, Essex, Kent, Middlesex, Surrey, and it is supposed some parts of Suffex and Northamptonshire, may be seen from the church tower. About half a mile from the church is a spot called Beacon-hill, which it is probable has been formerly used as a signal post. A manor in Penn was from a very early period in the ancient family of that name which became extinct in the elder branch by the death of Roger Penn esq. in 1735, when this estate passed by the marriage of his sister and sole heir to Sir Nathaniel Curzon bart. whose grandson, Lord Curzon, is the present proprietor. The greater part of Penn house was pulled down about the year 1760; the remainder has been fitted up by Lord Curzon as an occasional residence.

The manor of Segraves, in Penn, now considered as the principal manor, belonged, in the reign of Henry II. to the family of Turville. Being vested in the crown, Edward II. gave it to his brother Thomas de Brotherton, from whom it descended to the Segraves, Mowbrays, and Berkeleys. The Marquis of Berkeley gave it, among other estates, to Sir Reginald Bray: it afterwards became the property of the Penns, from whom it passed, by inheritance, to Lord Curzon. The site of Segraves is moated.

The Windfor family had a manor in Penn in the reign of Queen Elizabeth called Bilinges; this is supposed to be a farm now called Bailing, which has been many years annexed to Lord Curzon's estate.

The Baker family had a seat in this parish, which was sold by their representative John Baker Holroyd, now Lord Sheffield. By a subsequent purchase it became the property of baroness Howe, relict of the Hon. P. A. Curzon. The house is occupied as a school for the sons of French emigrants, particularly those of the nobility, and of officers who have fallen in the British service. The establishment was instituted by government, and originally consisted of 60 boys, with a head master and three assistants, but the number has been gradually decreasing, and the establishment will, of course, ere long cease.

In the parish church are memorials of the families of Penn, Curzon, and Baker. Among these is a monument erected in memory of the two first wives
of

of Lord Curzon¹, "two as excellent women as ever blessed the marriage state." The monument of the Hon. Penn Asheton Curzon, who died in 1797, is by Bacon. There is a monument also for Gen. Haviland, who died in 1784.

The rectory of Penn was given by Lord Segrave to the priory of Chacombe, in Northamptonshire. King Henry VIII. granted it to Daniel Penn, whose wife Sibel was nurse to King Edward VI. and Queen Elizabeth. It is now the property of Lord Curzon who is patron of the vicarage.

Penn-street, Knattocks, or Knotty-green, and Forty-green, are in this parish.

PETFOE, in the hundred of Newport, which lies about two miles and a half to the south-east of Olney, was formerly a separate parish, the manor-house of which (together with the manor) belonging to Lincoln college in Oxford, still maintains its own poor, but the poor of Petfoe-end are maintained by the parish of Emberton, and the inhabitants attend that church. The church of Petfoe was consolidated with Okeney; they have both been long ago destroyed: there are no remains of Petfoe church, but its site is discernible. Admiral Rowley has been for many years lessee of the manor under Lincoln college.

PITCHCOTE, in the hundred of Ashendon and deanery of Waddeston, lies about seven miles north-west of Aylesbury. The manor was in the family of Vernon as early as the year 1377, and continued to be their property in 1557. It was anciently held under the Bohuns, earls of Hereford^k. In 1603 it was purchased of Sir Walter Pye by an ancestor of Thomas Saunders esq. who is the present proprietor, and patron of the rectory.

PITSTON, anciently PICHTELSTHORN, in the hundred of Cotflow and Deanery of Murefley lies about ten miles east of Aylesbury and about six miles from Dunstable, in Bedfordshire. The chief property of Pitston was given to the monastery of Asheridge founded at the extremity of this parish on the borders of Hertfordshire, in the year 1283, by Edmund earl of Cornwall. The founder had a palace or castle at Asheridge, the keep of which is to be seen not far from the site of the monastery: either in this palace or in the convent, king Edward I. kept his Christmas in the year 1290, and stayed five weeks, during which time he held a parliament at Asheridge. The chronicle of Dunstable priory records the grievances which the inhabitants of that town endured by being obliged to furnish

¹ Esther, his first wife, daughter of William Hammer esq. died in 1764; and Dorothy, sister of the late earl Grosvenor, his second wife, in 1774.

^k See Pat. 50 Edw. III. part 2.

provisions for the monarch and his court. The earl of Cornwall died at Atheridge in the year 1300, having given the manors of Pitston and Atheridge to the convent, which consisted of a rector and 20 canons of a religious order called Bonnhommes, who wore a blue habit. The founder gave them, amongst other donations, a portion of Christ's blood; in honour of which the convent was founded. This precious deposit proved a mine of wealth; persons of all ranks flocking hither from the most distant parts out of devotion towards so sacred a relic, to the great enrichment of the canons. This pretended blood was publicly shewn at Paul's cross by the bishop of Rochester, on the 24th of February, 1538, and proved to be nothing more than honey clarified and coloured¹. The lands belonging to the monastery of Atheridge were estimated, in 1538, at 416l. 14s. 4d. clear yearly value. The site was kept for some time in the hands of the crown, and the monastery became a royal palace. It was the frequent residence of Queen Elizabeth when princess, in the reigns of her father and brother; she had a grant of it from her brother in 1552, and was residing at Atheridge when taken into custody by Sir Edward Hastings, Sir Thomas Cornwall, and Sir Edward Southwell, on suspicion of being concerned in Sir Thomas Wyatt's conspiracy, and, though confined by illness, was obliged (such was the strictness of their commission) to rise from her bed and set off for London in the Queen's litter. In 1574, Atheridge, with the lands which had belonged to the convent, was granted in exchange to Dudley and Ayscough, who acted, it is probable, as trustees for Henry Lord Cheyne of Toddington, to whom it was immediately conveyed. His widow sold this estate, in 1600, to Sir Randall Crewe and others; by whom it was conveyed, in 1602, to Lord Chancellor Ellesmere, ancestor of the present proprietor, the earl of Bridgwater, who inherits also the manors of Morrants, with Narnets and Butlers, in Pitston. It is probable that these are the names of families who held lands under the monastery.

The collegiate church, in which lay the remains of Lord Chief Justice Bryan, Sir Thomas and Sir John Denham, and other persons of note, was demolished in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. The great hall and the cloisters were entire in the year 1800. The hall, which was 44 feet by 22, had a rich gothic roof, and pointed windows; and was enriched with fluted pilasters on the sides. This beautiful specimen of ancient architecture, though to all appearance in good repair, was pulled down by the late duke of Bridgwater, and the materials sold piece-meal:

¹ Bishop Kennet's Parochial Antiquities, p. 302.

the cloisters, which were to have shared the same fate, were standing in the year 1802 after the demolition of the other buildings, but had sustained considerable injury by the pulling down of the adjoining walls. The roof of the cloisters was of Toternhoe stone, wrought with various ornaments, which remained very entire. Among these occurred the arms of the founder and those of the monastery (a holy lamb standing on the sepulchre and holding a banner.) The side walls were adorned with paintings in fresco, well designed, representing the history of our Saviour. Some of the figures had been well preserved, but most of them had sustained more or less injury from the damp. The additions which had been made to the conventual buildings about the reign of Queen Elizabeth, were pulled down also by the late duke, who it is said intended building a new mansion on, or near, the site of the monastery. Asheridge park is of large extent, well wooded, and abundantly stocked with deer. Pitston church, which is about four miles distant from Asheridge, contains nothing remarkable: it was consolidated with Ivinghoe in 1684, but the parishes continue separate. The great tithes, which belonged to the convent of Asheridge, are now the property of the earl of Bridgewater, who is patron of the consolidated vicarages of Ivinghoe and Pitston.

At *Nettleden*, a hamlet of Pitston, about six miles distant from the parish church, on the road from Gaddeston to Hemel Hempstead, is a chapel of ease, which was consecrated in 1470. It was the burial place of Sir George Cotton, vice chamberlain to King Edward VI. who died in 1545.

PRESTON-BISSET, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies about four miles south-west of the county-town. Browne Willis, in his history of the hundred of Buckingham, says, that the Bissets from whom the village derived its additional name, sold the manor in the year 1290; that, in the reign of Edward II. it was in the Baddlesmeres, and descended from them by female heirs to the families of Tibtoft, Roos, and Manners, but it is said by Dugdale that John Wentworth married the heir of the Bissets; and that the Wentworths continued in consequence of that alliance, in possession of Preston-Bisset so late as the reign of King Henry the Fifth. It is certain that King Edward IV. in the year 1477, granted it to Richard Fowler esq. in consequence of the attainder of Thomas Lord Roos^m; and that, on the reversal of the attainder, this manor (with other estates) was restored to that nobleman, and passed by marriage to the family of Manners, earl

^m Pat. 7 Edw. IV.

of Rutland, of whom Browne Willis says it was purchased, as he learned, by the Caters about the year 1630. From them it passed by marriage to the family of Gibbs, who, in the year 1699, sold it to Sir Edmund Denton bart. of Hillefdon. It has since passed with that manor being now the property of Mrs. Coke, the representative of the Dentons and relict of the late Wenman Coke esq. of Holkham.

The advowson of the rectory which had been successively in the families of Baleby, Langston, and Major, was purchased by Sir Edmund Denton in 1655. It is now the property of Mrs. Coke. In the parish church are some memorials of the family of Major. This parish has been inclosed under an act of parliament passed in 1781; when an allotment of land was assigned in lieu of tithes to the rector.

QUAINTON, in the hundred of Ashendon and deanery of Waddefdon, lies about six miles and a half to the south west of Aylesbury. There are three manors in this parish, Denham, Dodershall, and Shipton-Lee, or Lee-Grange; one of these, but it is uncertain which, was, at an early period, in the families of Malet and Muffenden, and was then known by the name of Quainton-Malet. Denham, to which the advowson of the rectory was formerly annexed, is now the principal manor. It was many years ago the property and seat of the Iwardbys, afterwards of the Winwoods, from whom it passed by marriage to the noble family of Montagu. It is now the property of the Right Hon. Lord Francis Godolphin Osborne, a younger brother of the Duke of Leeds, to whom it came by bequest from the late Lord Godolphin. The house is inhabited by a tenant.

Dodershall belonged, in the reign of King Edward the Second, to a family of that name, afterwards to the Cranfords; of whom, about the year 1500, it was purchased by the ancestor of William Pigott esq. the present proprietor. It was for several years the seat of the dowager Viscountess Say and Sele, who held it in jointure from her second husband John Pigott esq.

Shipton-Lee, or Lee-Grange, was for many generations a seat of the Dormers; it was afterwards in the Plaistowes. About 1766, it became the property of John Calcraft esq. the army agent; it now belongs to Thomas Quintin esq. of Hatley-St. George, in the county of Cambridge. At Lee-Grange was a chapel, now demolished.

In the parish church is a monument of the learned Orientalist Richard Brett, one of the translators of the Bible, and a fellow of Chelsea College, who was rector of Quainton from about the year 1595, till his death, which happened in 1637. The tomb of John Spencer, rector of this parish, who died in 1485, has his effigies on a brass plate of a large size in fine preservation. There are several monuments of the

the Dormers and Pigotts : among the former is that of Robert Dormer, one of the justices of the court of Common Pleas, who died in 1726, with his effigies in white marble, in his robes, and that of his widow in the attitude of a mourner. The monument of Sir Richard Pigott, who died in 1685, is a heavy piece of sculpture from a design of Leoni. In a chapel on the north side of the church is the monument of Richard Winwood esq. (son of Sir Ralph Winwood, King James's secretary) who died in 1688. He gave, by will, the sum of 200*l.* to build eight almshouses at this place for four widowers and four widows, and endowed them with lands in the parish for the payment of two shillings weekly to each, and providing them with gowns, &c.

The advowson is vested in the representatives of the late rector, Dr. Ekins, who died in 1791, being then dean of Carlisle.

QUARENDON, in the hundred of Aylesbury and deanery of Wendover, lies about two miles to the north-west of Aylesbury. The great storm of 1570 was so destructive at this place that Sir Henry Lee is said to have lost 3000 sheep, besides horses and other cattle^a. The manor of Quarendon was anciently in the family of Fitzjohn, from whom it descended by female heirs to the Beauchamps^o. On the attainder of Thomas Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, it was granted, in 1397, to Thomas Mowbray, afterwards Duke of Norfolk; and on his attainder, which followed soon afterwards, became again vested in the crown. In 1512, it was granted to Robert Lee esq. whose family (being a younger branch of the Lees, or Leas, of Lee a township of Wibunbury in the county of Chester) had been seated at Quarendon as early as the year 1460, and had been for some time lessees under the crown. Sir Edward Henry Lee was created Viscount Quarendon and Earl of Litchfield, in 1674. The title became extinct in 1776, by the death of the Earl of Litchfield, the last heir male of the Lees of Quarendon. The manor was sold by his representative, Lord Dillon, in 1802, to James Dupré esq. of Wilton park, in this county. The ancient seat of the Lees at Quarendon, was pulled down in the early part of the last century.

St. Peter's chapel in Quarendon, which was an appendage to Bierton, was founded by John Farnham about the year 1392. In Queen Elizabeth's time it was rebuilt by Sir Henry Lee : it has been many years disused, and is now much dilapidated. The costly monuments of the Lees are in a very mutilated state, and hastening to total decay : the most remarkable are those of Sir Anthony Lee, who was knight of the shire and died about the year 1550, and that of his son Sir

^a Holinshed. . . ^o Dugdale's Baronage, I. 707.

Henry, who died in 1611. The effigies of Sir Henry Lee is in gilt armour: his epitaph is printed in Collins's Peerage. Sir Henry Lee's lady, who was a daughter of the first Lord Paget, died in 1584, and lies buried at Aylesbury, where is a monument to her memory: after her death he cohabited with a lady of the name of Vavafor, who was buried at Quarendon; where there was formerly a monument to her memory, with her effigies and the following inscription:

“ Under this stone entombed lies a fair and worthy dame,
Daughter to Henry Vavafor, Ann Vavafor her name:
She living with Sir Henry Lee for love, long time did dwell;
Death could not part them, but here they rest within one cell.”

This monument was defaced after Sir Henry Lee's death, as appears by some church notes taken early in the seventeenth century, which were in the library of James West esq. ^p

There are no vestiges of the hospital mentioned in Sir Henry Lee's epitaph. The village of Quarendon is much depopulated, and now contains little more than 50 inhabitants: it is esteemed a separate parish although its chapel was dependant on Berton.

RADNAGE, in the hundred of Desborough and deanery of Wycombe, lies about six miles north-west of High-Wycombe. The principal manor called the King's manor, was given by King Henry I. to the Knights-Templars; and on the abolition of their order, was granted, with most of their possessions, to the Knights-Hospitallers. After the dissolution of monasteries it continued in the crown till the reign of Charles I. who sold it to certain citizens of London. It was afterwards in the family of Chase, from whom it was inherited by the late Dr. Bettesworth, chancellor of the diocese of London: it is now vested in his representatives. Another manor was part of the estate of Thomas Chaucer esq. and passed in marriage with his daughter and heir to William De la Pole, Duke of Suffolk. John Duke of Suffolk, and Elizabeth his wife, gave it to the dean and chapter of Windsor, with the king's licence, in 1480. It has been long held under the church of Windsor by the Leighs of Stonely in Warwick: the present lessee is the Hon. Mary Leigh, sister and heir of the late Lord Leigh. The rectory is in the gift of the crown.

RATCLIFFE, or RADCLIFFE, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies about a mile and a half west of the county-town. The manor belonged in

^p Copied in Browne Willis's Papers.

ancient times to the families of Iveri and St. Walery. From the latter it passed by a female heir to the family of St. Lis, some of whom were knights of the shire in the reigns of Edward II. and Edward III.: William of Wickham having purchased the manor of this family gave it to his newly founded college in Oxford.

The manor house was for some time a seat of the Dentons, afterwards of Sir William Smith bart. one of the representatives in parliament for the town of Buckingham, who made a park at Ratcliffe. It is now the property of Mr. Henry Smith of Charwelton in Oxfordshire.

The Marquis of Buckingham has a manor in this parish which belonged to the Temples.

This parish, which is called in ecclesiastical records Radcliffe *cum* Chackmore has been inclosed by an act of parliament passed in 1773, when an allotment was assigned to the rector in lieu of tithes, and a small allotment to the poor in lieu of their right to cut furze. The rectory is in the patronage of New college. It is probable that *Chackmore*, which is a hamlet of Ratcliffe, had formerly a chapel.

RAVENSTON, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies on the borders of Northamptonshire, nearly six miles north of Newport-Pagnell, and about three miles west of Olney. A priory of Austin canons was founded at this place by King Henry III. in the year 1255. It was suppressed in 1525, and given to Cardinal Wolsey, but afterwards resumed by the crown, and by three successive grants passed to Sir Francis Bryan, Sir Robert Throckmorton, and Sir Moyle Finch: the last grant was in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and bears date 1591. It is now the property of George Earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham a descendant of the last-mentioned grantee. There are no remains of the conventual buildings. The manor was anciently in the Giffards and Wahuls; of the latter it was purchased by Peter de Chaceport, archdeacon of Wells and master of the wardrobe, whose son Henry gave it to King Henry III. That monarch granted it, with the advowson of the rectory to his newly founded convent at this place, and it has ever since been annexed to the priory estate. Ravenston was for some time a seat of the family of Finch. The great Lord Chancellor Nottingham was described as of this place when he was created a baronet in 1660; he attained the highest honors of his profession, and was advanced to an earldom. The late learned Mr. Justice Blackstone speaks in the highest terms of his abilities and integrity, and calls him a thorough master and zealous defender of the laws and constitution of his country: his eloquence was held in such esteem by his contemporaries, that it obtained him the appellation of the English Roscius and the English Cicero. Lord Chancellor

Nottingham died in 1682, and was buried at Ravenston, where a most magnificent monument was erected to his memory by his son, with his effigies finely executed in white marble, in his chancellor's robes, reclining under a canopy supported by four pillars of black marble of the Corinthian order. The epitaph is printed in Collins's Peerage.

The Earl of Winchelsea is impropiator of the great tithes which belonged to the priory, and patron of the vicarage. Lord Chancellor Nottingham having purchased the fee farm rent of the manor of Ravenston, amounting to 84*l.* *per ann.* gave it as an endowment for the vicarage. He founded a hospital also at this place for six poor men and six poor women, who have a weekly allowance of 3*s.* 6*d.* each, and a gown every year. The chancellor also gave 10*l.* *per ann.* towards ornamenting of the church. Mr. Chapman, the late vicar, founded a charity school for all the poor children of this parish, for which he intended a large endowment, but it is disputed in chancery by his heirs; the master receives at present a salary of 12*l.* *per annum.*

MONKS-RISBOROUGH, in the hundred of Aylesbury, lies near Prince's-Risborough, nearly five miles south-west of Wendover. It has been said that there was a cell of Benedictine monks at this place, subject to the monastery of Christ-church, in Canterbury; but of this no evidence has been found. It is certain that the manor was given by Æschwyn, bishop of Dorchester, to the monks of Christ-church. After the reformation it was for some time in the Windfor family, afterwards in the Hampdens, from whom it passed by inheritance to the present Lord Viscount Hampden.

The church, which is a handsome Gothic edifice, with a square tower, contains no monuments worthy of notice. The archbishop of Canterbury is patron of the rectory, which is in his peculiar jurisdiction.

White-leaf Cross, on the side of the Chiltern hills, (spoken of in the introduction) is in this parish.

PRINCE'S-RISBOROUGH, in the hundred of Aylesbury and deanery of Wendover, is a small town 37 miles distant from London, and five miles south-west of Wendover. Its market was granted by King Henry III. who gave the townsmen many privileges, such as the being excused from attendance at assizes and sessions, exemption from toll, &c. There is still a very small market held on Saturday and a fair on the sixth of May.

The manor was anciently in the families of Giffard and Humet. Having become vested in the crown, it was given to Richard Earl of Cornwall, King of the Romans, who died
seised

seised of it 1272. King Edward III. granted it in 1333, to Henry Lord Ferrars of Groby. It is said to have been not long afterwards the property of Edward the black Prince, and that he had a palace, supposed to have stood within the site of a spacious moat now dry, which is in a field adjoining the church-yard. This manor was part of the dower of Catharine, the queen of Henry V. King Charles the First sold it to certain citizens of London, who, in 1637, conveyed it to the Chibnalls. It was afterwards successively in the families of Abraham, Adeane, Pelham, and Penton. The Pentons acquired it by purchase in the year 1692, but they had resided at Risborough above a hundred years before that time; for it appears that Queen Elizabeth, after she had left Hampden in her Buckinghamshire progress, called on Mr. Penton at Risborough^a. It is now the property of John Grubb esq. of Horsendon, by whose family it was purchased of Henry Penton esq. the present member for Winchester, about the year 1765. Walter Giffard, Earl of Buckingham, gave the rectory of Prince's-Risborough to which a manor was annexed, to Nutley Abbey. It has passed with the lay-manor ever since the time of the Chibnalls. The impropiator is obliged (by the bequest of some former possessor, said to have been a maiden lady,) to provide annually a fat bull to be killed, and a boar to be made into brawn, four bushels of wheat and four bushels of malt to be made into bread and beer, the whole of which is to be distributed amongst the parishioners at Christmas. Mr. Grubb is patron of the curacy.

Mrs. Chibnall, formerly lady of this manor, gave a sum of money to provide clothing annually for 24 poor women.

SANDERTON, in the hundred of Desborough and deanery of Wycombe, lies on the borders of Oxfordshire, about eight miles south-east of Thame, about the same distance north-west of High-Wycombe, and about seven miles from Wendover. In this parish were formerly two manors, two churches and two distinct benefices which were consolidated about the year 1450, when the two manors and advowsons became united also under one proprietor. The manor and advowson of Sanderton St. Nicholas had been before that time successively in the families of Dayrell, Foxley, Brun and Braybroke. That of Sanderton St. Mary in the Sandertons, one of which family was knight of the shire in the reign of Edward III. John Brecknock being possessed of both manors, sold them, in the year 1474, to Sir John Leynham, of whose widow they were purchased in 1481 by bishop Moreton, afterwards archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Chancellor and Cardinal. His heir, Thomas Moreton, sold them, in 1508, to Edward Donne esq. of whose family they

^a Papers in the possession of Lord Hampden.

were purchased in 1592, by an ancestor of the present proprietor, Lord Dormer. The rectory is in the patronage of Magdalen College, in Oxford.

SHABBINGTON, or SHOBBINGTON, in the hundred of Ashendon and deanery of Waddeston, lies nearly three miles west of Thame. The manor was anciently in the Greys of Rotherfield, afterwards in the Deincourts and Lovels. The Clerkes of Hitcham, were possessed of this manor as early as the year 1624. Sir John Clerke who was created a baronet in 1660 removed his residence from Hitcham to Shabbington. In 1716 the manor of Shabbington was purchased of the Clerkes by the Heywoods: on the death of William Heywood, last heir male of that family, in 1762, it descended to his sisters and coheirs, and became in consequence of a partition which afterwards took place, the sole property of Mrs. Elizabeth Crewe, relict of his nephew John Crewe esq. of Boleworth, in Cheshire. Since Mrs. Crewe's decease it has devolved to her son-in-law Lord Viscount Falmouth. The Knights of St. John of Jerusalem had a manor in this parish which was given them in 1299. It was granted in 1588 to Tipper and Dawe: we have not been able to trace it any farther.

In the parish church are some memorials of the family of Clerke. The great tithes which were appropriated to the priory of the Holy Trinity, in Wallingford, are now the property of the Rev. Philip Wroughton and Mary Anne his wife who are patrons of the vicarage. Mrs. Wroughton was heir of the Tipping family who were many years proprietors of the rectory and advowson.

Thomas Jeamson, son of a vicar of Shabbington published a work called "Artificial embellishments" printed in 1665.

SHALLESTON, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies about four miles north-west of Buckingham near the road to Brackley. The manor was anciently in the Doyleys, afterwards (as early as the year 1202) in the Baynells, from whom it passed by heirs female to the families of Ayete and Purefoy. The last-mentioned family, after possessing this manor more than 350 years, became extinct in 1762, by the death of Henry Purefoy esq. Under Mr. Purefoy's will it is now the property of the Rev. George Huddleston Purefoy Jervoise, who is patron also of the rectory, and incumbent. He resides in the manor-house.

In the parish church, a neat modern structure, are some monuments of the Purefoys, among which is that of Henry Purefoy above-mentioned, and of his mother, who, surviving him, died in 1765 at the age of 92. The parish of Shalleston has been inclosed by an act of parliament passed in 1767, when an allotment

was assigned to the rector in lieu of all tithes excepting those of an estate then belonging to Mr. Taylor, which, under the act, was to continue titheable.

SHENLEY, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies between three and four miles from Stony-Stratford, near the great road to London. The manor of Church-end in this parish, was in the reign of King Edward I. in the family of Vache, from whom it passed by an heir female to the Greys. Sir Giles Daubeney purchased it of Lord Grey of Wilton in 1505, and, in 1520, sold it to the Pigots. Having been vested in the crown by an exchange, this manor was granted, in 1563, to the Ashfields, from whom it passed by marriage to the Fortescues and Whorwoods. It is now the property of the Rev. Primatt Knapp, whose ancestors purchased it of the Whorwoods in 1696.

The manor of Brook-end, or Shenley-Manfell, has been held with Church-end ever since the year 1426. It had formerly been in the Beauchamps, and on the attainder of Thomas Beauchamp, earl of Warwick, was granted, in 1397, to Thomas Mowbray, afterwards Duke of Norfolk^r.

The manor of Westbury, in this parish, was anciently in the family of Fitz-Eustace. In the reign of King Henry IV. it became the property of the Staffords of Totenhoe, and now belongs to William Selby esq. of Winslow, whose ancestor, Mr. Lowndes, purchased it of the Staffords in 1695. Mr. Selby has also the manor of Giffords in this parish.

In the parish church is a handsome monument for Thomas Stafford esq. of Totenhoe, who died in 1607. He founded an almshouse at this place, and endowed it with 35*l.* *per annum* for four men and two women, the men to be allowed 1*s.* 9*d.* each weekly, and the women 1*s.* 2*d.*; the sum of 13*s.* 4*d.* to be allowed yearly for the men's and 8*s.* 6*d.* for the women's clothing.

Mr. Knapp is patron of the rectory and incumbent. Certain fields within the manor of Shenley-Brook-end were inclosed by an act of parliament passed in 1761, and an allotment of land was assigned to the rector in lieu of tithes.

SHERRINGTON, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies about two miles north of Newport-Pagnell on the road to Olney. The principal manor was anciently in the Paganells, afterwards in the Tyringhams and Backwells. It was sold in 1694 to the Chapmans, and is now, by purchase, the property of William Praed esq. of Tyringham, the representative of its former proprietors.

^r Dugdale.

Another manor passed by a female heir from the Bassets to the Greys, and was afterwards successively in the families of Marriot, Montgomery, and Norton. From the Nortons it passed by marriage to the Pargiters. It is now, by inheritance from the latter, the property of Dryden Smith esq. in whose family it has been nearly a century.

The Mercers' company have a manor, or manor-farm in this parish, given by Dr. John Colet, dean of St. Paul's, in the year 1519, to that company, in trust for charitable uses. Browne Willis mentions another manor, which was successively in the families of Caron, Linford, Reynes, Lowe, and Adams, and was afterwards purchased (about the year 1710) by the Chesters. The present Mr. Chester has an estate in this parish, but does not exercise any manerial rights.

The bishop of Lincoln is patron of the rectory. The parish has been inclosed by an act of parliament passed in 1796, when a corn-rent was settled on the rector in lieu of tithes.

SIMPSON, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies about a mile and a half north of Fenny-Stratford, on the road to Newport-Pagnell. The manor at a remote period belonged successively to the families of Giffard, Cauz, and Grey. From the latter it passed, in the year 1510, to the Pigots, who possessed it about a century. It was afterwards in the family of Hatch; and, about the year 1686, passed by purchase to the Waldens. The present proprietor is Sir Thomas Hanmer bart. who resides occasionally in the manor-house, having inherited it by descent from Job Hanmer esq. who married Susanna, the heiress of Thomas Walden esq.

In the parish church are some monuments of the Hanners; that of the late Sir Walden Hanmer, who was one of the knights of the shire is a handsome piece of sculpture by Bacon.

Sir Thomas Hanmer is patron of the rectory. His father purchased the advowson of the Cranwell family in 1760. The parish has been inclosed pursuant to two acts of parliament passed in 1763 and 1770, and an allotment of land has been assigned to the rector in lieu of tithes, &c.

SLAPTON, in the hundred of Cotflow and deanery of Muresly, lies on the borders of Bedfordshire, about four miles from Leighton-Bufard, and about eleven miles from Aylebury.

The manor, which had belonged to the abbess and convent of Barking in Essex, was granted, in 1560, to Thomas Rowe esq. whose descendants sold it before the year 1762 to the Theeds. It is now the property of the Earl of Bridgwater, whose

whose ancestor purchased it of the Theeds about the commencement of the last century.

The manor of Horton-hall, in Edlesborough, now the property of Christopher Johnson esq. extends into this parish.

The rectory is in the patronage of Christ Church college in Oxford. The Theeds sold the advowson, in 1720, to the Duke of Chandos: of whom, in 1729, it was purchased by the dean and chapter.

SOULBURY, in the hundred of Cotflow and deanery of Muresley, lies on the Bedfordshire side of the county, about three miles north-west of Leighton-Busard and about five miles south of Fenny-Stratford. The manor was in the Mansells during a great part of the thirteenth century. It is now (together with the manors of *Liscombe* and *Hollington* (hamlets in this parish) the property of Sir Jonathan Lovett bart. whose ancestors were possessed of them as early as the reign of Edward the Second^s, probably by purchase from the Mansells. Sir Jonathan Lovett, the present proprietor, was of a younger branch of the family who had been settled for a long period at Kingwell, in the county of Tipperary. Upon the failure of the elder branch he succeeded to the Buckinghamshire estate, and in 1781 was created a baronet. The seat at Liscombe is a quadrangular building; one side is occupied by a chapel which, by the style of its architecture, appears to have been built about the middle or latter end of the fourteenth century; the house is of much later date, no part of it appearing to be older than the reign of Queen Elizabeth: the windows have been modernized. Among the portraits at Liscombe are several of the Lovett family; a half length of Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk^s, with a pink in his hand; the first Earl of Bedford, a half length, on board, dated 1555; Sir Nicholas Crispe, in armour; Sir Edmund Verney, standard bearer to King Charles I. who was slain at Edghill; Archbishop Sancroft; Titus Oates, &c. In the parish church are some monuments of the Lovetts.

The impropriate rectory, which formerly belonged to Woburn abbey, is now the property of Sir Jonathan Lovett. The curacy, or donative, is in the gift of the crown, but the Lovett family have been allowed to enjoy the patronage ever

^s A fine of this estate was then levied on the marriage of an ancestor of Sir Jonathan Lovett's, with one of the Tourville family.

^t Inscribed "Carolus Brandon dux Suffolciæ, præses Henrici oct. qui fuit (ex parte matris) frater Humphridi Tyrrell domini de Thornton in com. Buck. qui Humphridus sponsovit filiam unicam et hæredem Roberti Ingleton domini de Thornton cancellarii sc̃ci régis & unius prædicti régis concilii privati."

since the year 1642, when Sir Robert Lovett left the sum of 40*l.* *per annum.* as an augmentation of the curacy to be paid by his heirs, on condition that they should be allowed to nominate the curate, whose salary was before only 8*l.* *per annum.* A charity school for 24 children was founded by the Lovett family in 1714. The manor and liberty of Soulbury, with the hamlet of Hollingdon was inclosed pursuant to an act of parliament passed in 1772, when an allotment of land was assigned to the impropiator in lieu of tithes. The other hamlets in this parish are *Liscombe* (already spoken of) *Bragenham*, where was formerly a chapel of ease, and *Chelmscote*. The manor of Bragenham is the property of the Hon. Mary Leigh, whose family purchased it of the Theeds in 1735. The manor of Chelmscote has passed with that of the neighbouring parish of Linlade, and is now the property of Andrew Corbet esq.

In a distant part of this parish, near Great-Brickhill, is Stockgrove, the seat of Edward Hanmer esq. whose manor of Smewnes extends partly into this parish.

STANTON-BARRY, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies about four miles north-east of Stony-Stratford. The manor was anciently in the family of Barry, from whom it passed by a female heir to that of Boveton. At a later period it belonged to the family of Vaux; and, having been vested in the crown by the attainder of Sir William Vaux, was granted, in 1467, to Richard Fowler esq. and his heirs male^a. Being again in the crown, it was granted to the Ashfields, from whom it passed by marriage to the families of Lea and Temple. In 1667, it was purchased of Sir John Temple by Sir John Wittewronge, who had been created a baronet in 1662. Sir John Wittewronge built a capital mansion at this place (of which there are now no remains) for the residence of his son. It continued to be a seat of the Wittewronges till 1727, when the estate was sold to Sarah Duchess of Marlborough, and the sale was confirmed by act of parliament. The duchess gave it to her grandson John Spencer esq. grandfather of the Right Hon. Earl Spencer, who is the present proprietor. Sir John Wittewronge, the last of the family who possessed this estate, was outlawed for the murder of Mr. Griffith, a surgeon, and at length died in the Fleet prison of wounds received in an affray with a fellow prisoner. This opulent family having fallen to decay, Sir William Wittewronge, who succeeded to the title on the death of his unhappy brother in 1743, and was the last baronet, was appointed governor of the poor knights of Windsor.

^a Pat. 7 Edw. IV.





J. G. Jones del. & sculp.

SOUTH EAST VIEW OF STEWKLEY CHURCH.

In the parish church, which exhibits some remains of Saxon architecture^a, are some memorials for the families of Temple, Tyrrell, and Wittewronge.

Lord Spencer has the great tithes, which were formerly appropriated to the priory of Goring, in Oxfordshire, and is patron of the vicarage.

STEWKLEY, in the hundred of Cotflow and deanery of Murefley, lies about six miles to the east of Winflow, about seven miles south of Fenny-Stratford, and about five miles from Leighton-Bufard, in Bedfordshire. Browne Willis makes mention of four manors in this parish: the principal one was anciently in the Clares and Burghersts: the heiress of the last mentioned family married Thomas Chaucer, son of the poet; whose only daughter Alice was the wife of William De la Pole, Duke of Suffolk. John Duke of Suffolk gave this manor, in 1480, to the dean and chapter of Windsor, under whom it has been held for many years by the family of Leigh: the present lessee is the Hon. Mary Leigh, of Stonely, in Warwickshire.

Another manor called Vauxes, *alias* Fowlers, was successively in the families of Molins and Chaftillon. Having been forfeited to the crown, in 1467, by the attainder of Sir William Vaux, it was granted to Richard Fowler esq. being then described as a moiety of the manor of Stewkley^b. Browne Willis speaks of it as belonging in his time to the family of Hopper. It is now the property of the Rev. Mr. Wodley of Cublington, who purchased it of Mr. Foster.

Stewkley-grange was, in the reign of King Henry VIII. in the Duncombe family. From the year 1690, or thereabout, till 1760, it was in the family of Wigg: and is now the property of Mr. Ward.

At *Littlecote* or *Litcote*, a hamlet of this parish, was formerly a chapel of ease dedicated to St. Giles. The manor was at a remote period in the families of Molins and Pigot: in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, it was purchased by an ancestor of the present proprietor, Thomas Sheppard esq. of Thornton. The Sheppards were settled at Littlecote, in the reign of King Henry VIII.

In the parish church, which affords a very curious specimen of Saxon architecture^c is the tomb of the late Thomas Sheppard esq. who married the heiress of the Tournays of Cublington.

The great tithes of Stewkley which were appropriated to the priory of Kenilworth are now annexed to the See of Oxford. The bishop of that diocese is patron of the vicarage.

^a See p. 487.

^b Pat. 7. Edw. IV.

^c See it spoken of more at large p. 486.

STOKE-GOLDINGTON, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies on the borders of Northamptonshire four miles and a half from Newport-Pagnell, in the road from that town to Northampton. There were anciently two manors, or moieties of manors, in this place; both of which are now the property of Miss Wrighte of Gothurst: one of these has passed by the same title as Gothurst; the other was anciently in the Peverells, whose heiress married into the family of Barentine: in 1344 it was given by the Barentines to the prior and convent of Ravenston. After the reformation, this estate became the property of the Mulso family; since which time it has passed in the same manner as the other estate. Miss Wrighte is patroness of the rectory, which was consolidated with Gothurst in 1736. The parish has been inclosed by an act of parliament passed in 1770, when an allotment of land was assigned to the rector in lieu of tithes, &c. There is no charity school or alms-house in the parish.

Eakley, now united to Stoke-Goldington, was formerly a distinct parish, and had a chapel which was served once a month. There are two manors in Eakley; one of these, called Wolf's-fields, was purchased of the late Lord Winchelsea by the trustees of Dr. Busby's charities. Miss Wrighte's manor of Stoke is held under this manor by a quit rent of 2s. 4d. *per annum*. The other manor, called Eakley-Lane, was many years in the family of Lane, and is now held in trust for the representatives of the late Charles Lane, of St. Thomas's street, Southwark, by Henry Cline esq. Another manor near Stoke-Goldington, called Gorefields, is extra-parochial; it is now the property of Miss Wrighte, whose father purchased it of the Wilkinsons.

STOKE-HAMOND, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies about three miles south of Fenny-Stratford. The manor continued for a considerable time in the family of Wolverton, descendants of Maignon Brito, who held it at the time of the Norman Survey. The greater part of it was afterwards successively in the families of Chastillon, Barton, Ingleton, Tyrrell, Kirk, and Bennet. From the latter it passed by marriage to the family of Scudamore: it is now the property of his grace the Duke of Norfolk, in right of his duchess, who was granddaughter and heir of the last Lord Scudamore. A fourth part of the manor was separated from the rest in the reign of Richard II. and given to the priory of Dunstaple: subsequent to the reformation it was for some years in the family of Pye, afterwards in the Smiths: in 1773 it was purchased in trust for the Duchess of Norfolk, in whom the whole manor is now vested. The lands belonging to this portion of the manor passed into other hands.

In

In the parish church are some memorials of the families of Disney, Hillersdon, and Frank. The bishop of Lincoln is patron of the rectory. The parish has been inclosed pursuant to an act of parliament, passed in 1773, when an allotment was made to the rector in lieu of tithes.

STOKE-MANDEVILLE, in the hundred of Aylesbury and deanery of Wendover, lies about three miles and a half south of Aylesbury, near the road to Amersham. This manor, which was formerly in the Zouches, and of late years in the Clarkes of Ardington, in Berkshire; was purchased, about the year 1790, of William Wiseman Clarke esq. by Mr. Charles Lucas, of Aylesbury, the present proprietor.

The manor of Oldbury belonged, in the reign of King Richard the Second, to Sir William Moton; both this manor and that of Newbury in this parish, were soon afterwards in the Brudenells, collateral ancestors of the Earl of Cardigan, who had a seat at Stoke-Mandeville. In the chapel, (which is parochial although dependant on Bierton as the mother church), is a tablet in memory of some children of Edmund Brudenell esq. who died in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. The manors of Oldbury and Newbury are not now known.

The rectorial estate is held by Christ's-Hospital under the dean and chapter of Lincoln. The parish has been inclosed by an act of parliament passed in 1797: when an allotment of land was given in lieu of the great tithes, and a corn-rent assigned to the vicar of Bierton.

Prestwood lies in an insulated part of the parish of Stoke-Mandeville, among the woods between Hampden and Missenden. Southward of the avenue leading to Hampden house, was the land for which 20s. ship money was assessed on Mr. Hampden, whose resistance of this assessment occasioned the celebrated trial on that subject. Mr. Oldham's manor of Overbury extends into this part of the parish.

STOKE-POGES, in the hundred of Stoke and deanery of Burnham, lies nearly two miles north of Slough, and about six miles north-west of Colnbrook. Amicia de Stoke brought the manor of this place in marriage to Robert Poges, who was chosen one of the knights of the shire in the year 1300; his granddaughter and heir Egidia married Sir John Molins knight-banneret, and treasurer of the chamber to King Edward III. In 1331 he had the royal licence for fortifying and embattling his mansion at Stoke, and, in 1346, he procured a charter that Stoke and Ditton, where also he had a seat, should be exempt from the authority of the king's Marshal. From Sir John Molins this manor descended by female heirs to the families of Hungerford and Hastings. Henry Hastings Earl of Huntingdon

rebuilt the manor-house in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. The estate was soon afterwards seized by the crown for a debt. King James the First, about the year 1621, granted the manor in fee to Lord Chief Justice Coke, who appears to have held it many years before as lessee under the crown. In 1601, being then Attorney-General, he entertained Queen Elizabeth very sumptuously at this place, and presented her Majesty with jewels to the value of 1000*l.* or 1200*l.* In 1625 this celebrated lawyer, having quitted his high station, and being out of favour with the court, was obliged, much against his will, to serve the office of sheriff for the county; and it was thought by his friends a great degradation, that he who had filled one of the highest situations on the bench should attend on the judges at the assizes. Sir John Villiers, elder brother of the Duke of Buckingham, married Sir Edward Coke's only daughter; and this manor (then held by lease) having been settled on him at the time of his marriage, he was, in 1619, created a peer by the title of baron Villiers, of Stoke-Poges, and Viscount Purbeck. Lord Purbeck succeeded to this estate after the death of Sir Edward Coke, which happened in 1634, at his seat at Stoke-Poges. The house, it appears, was settled on his lady, who was relict of Sir William Hatton. There appears to have been but little harmony between them; during the latter part of his life they lived separately; and so eager was she to take possession, that, upon a premature report of his death, we are told she hastened down with her brother, Lord Wimbledon, for that purpose; but meeting his physician near Colnbrook, and learning from him tidings of her husband's amendment, she returned disappointed to London. This great man seems to have been peculiarly unfortunate towards the close of his life, and to have suffered much from domestic afflictions: his only daughter, Lady Purbeck, eloped from her husband in 1621, and lived in adultery with Sir Robert Howard^d. She was reconciled to her father before his death, and lived with him at Stoke the two years immediately preceding; but after that event returned to Sir Robert Howard. The proceedings against this lady and her gallant were such, as if they were to be now adopted, would have a greater effect perhaps in checking the crime of adultery, than the heaviest pecuniary fines. Lady Purbeck was sentenced by the High Commission Court to do penance in a white sheet at the Savoy church: she escaped this sentence by flight, but it hung over her for

^d After her elopement she for some time called herself Mrs. Wright, and lay in privately of a son, who bore that name. He afterwards took the name of Danvers by virtue of a patent of Oliver Cromwell, having married the heiress of Sir John Danvers. His son assumed the title of Viscount Purbeck; and after the death of George Duke of Buckingham, in 1688, that of Earl of Buckingham; but his title was not allowed by the House of Lords. He was buried at South-Mims, in 1715. Cole's MSS. Brit. Mus.

many years. In 1635, the year after her father's death, she and Sir Robert Howard were both taken into custody, and committed to different prisons*, she to the Gatehouse and Sir Robert to the Fleet, where he suffered a tedious imprisonment! Lady Purbeck escaped from prison disguised in male apparel, and got over to France. The government demanded her from that court; but whether she was given up, or returned and submitted to her sentence is not known, as the communicative Mr. Garrard, Lord Strafford's intelligent informer, about that time ceases his correspondence with his noble patron. It is certain that some years afterwards she was in England cohabiting with Sir Robert Howard, and being with him in the King's garrison at Oxford, died there in 1645, and was buried in St. Mary's church. In 1647, Stoke-house was for a short time the residence of the unfortunate King Charles, when he was a prisoner in the power of the army. Not long after the death of Lord Purbeck, which happened in 1656, the manor of Stoke was sold by his heirs to John Gayer esq. elder brother of Sir Robert Gayer K. B. who afterwards possessed it. It was purchased of the Gayers about the year 1720, by Edward Halsey esq. one of the representatives of the town of Buckingham, whose daughter Anne married Lord Cobham. Stoke-house and the manor were sold by her heirs to William Penn esq. chief proprietor of Pennsylvania, grandfather of John Penn esq. the present possessor.

The ancient manor-house at Stoke has been celebrated, not only for its eminent inhabitants, but as having furnished the subject of Gray's "long story." The "dim windows that excluded the light" were filled with arms of the family of Hastings and its alliances, those of Sir Edward Coke, and many of his great contemporaries in the law. It was pulled down in 1789 by Mr. Penn, who has built an elegant modern mansion not far from its site from a design of Mr. Wyatt. The library is a noble room 140 feet in length, extending the whole of the south front. Among other family pictures at Stoke-house are those of the celebrated Admiral Sir William Penn, and his son the still more celebrated founder of the colony of Pennsylvania, painted in armour at the age of 22, before his conversion to the tenets of the Quakers. In the park to the north of the house is a colossal statue of Sir Edward Coke (by Rossetti) on a fluted pedestal sixty eight feet in height.

The priory of Burnham had a manor in this parish. Bonyforden in Stoke-Poges was a seat and manor of the Windsor family. We have not been able to gain any information as to the subsequent history or of the present possessors of these estates.

* Archbishop Laud was fined 500*l.* some years afterwards by the parliament for having imprisoned Sir Robert Howard. Cole's MSS. Brit. Mus.

The parish church is a small Gothic structure with a wooden spire. In the north wall of the chancel is an ancient tomb under an arch rudely executed and ornamented with foliage, probably that of Sir John Molins. Near the altar are the tombs (with their effigies engraven on brass) of Sir William Molins, who fell at the siege of Orleans in 1429; Margaret Lady Molins and Eleanor Lady Molins. George Earl of Huntingdon, who died in 1544, lies buried also in the chancel, but has no monument. Sir Edward Hastings, Lord Loughborough, built a chapel adjoining the church as a place of interment for his family, and directed by his will that tombs should be erected for such of his relations as had been buried at this place. On his own tomb he desired that there might be placed his effigies in copper, gilt. Either his directions were not complied with, or the monuments have been removed, for there are now no memorials of any kind for the family of Hastings. There is a monument in this chapel for Dr. Gregory Hascard dean of Windsor, one of the most celebrated preachers of his time, who died in 1708.

The church-yard at Stoke-Poges was the scene of Gray's well known elegy. That celebrated poet spent a great part of his youth in this village, and lies buried here himself under a tomb which he had erected over the remains of his mother and aunt. As there is nothing on the stone that covers his remains to denote it as the place of his burial, Mr. Penn has erected a monument for him in an adjoining field with the following inscription: "This monument in honour of Thomas Gray, was erected A. D. 1799, among the scenery celebrated by that great lyric and elegiac poet. He died in 1771, and lies unnoticed in the adjoining church-yard, under the tombstone on which he piously and pathetically recorded the interment of his aunt and much lamented mother."

The great tithes of this parish were given by Hugh de Stoke to the priory of St. Mary-Overie in Southwark; after the reformation they were granted to John Dorset: they were purchased about the middle of the 17th century, by Sir Robert Clarges, and having remained some time in his family were afterwards in the Godolphins. It is probable they were purchased by Dr. Godolphin, provost of Eton and afterwards dean of St. Paul's, who was uncle of the last Earl of Godolphin: they are now the property of Lord Francis Godolphin Osborne, younger brother of the Duke of Leeds. The late Lord Godolphin and his lady augmented the vicarage with a rent charge of 48*l. per annum* issuing out of the great tithes.

Sir Edward Hastings, Lord Hastings of Loughborough, founded a hospital in the year 1557 near the church-yard, and endowed it with a rent charge of 53*l. 9s. 10½d.* issuing out of the manor of Creech St. Michael, in Somersetshire,

and six cow-pastures in Stoke park, for the support of a chantry-priest, and four beadsmen: after the reformation this hospital was incorporated by the name of master and brethren. The late Mr. Penn, in lieu of the cow-pastures, gave 30 acres of land to the hospital, free of tithes and taxes: in 1765, he procured an act of parliament for pulling down the old hospital and rebuilding it on its present site, about a quarter of a mile from the church. The new hospital is a handsome brick building with commodious apartments for the poor brethren, a house for the master, and a chapel. Elizabeth Countess of Moira, Baroness Hastings and Hungerford, as representative of the founder, is patroness of the hospital. The present master, Mr. Nettlehip, who was appointed in 1795, is vicar of Stoke-Poges, as was his predecessor. The visitors of the hospital are the dean of Windsor and the provost of Eton.

Ditton, a hamlet of this parish, has a chapel of ease, which was formerly a chantry chapel. The manor of Ditton was held with Stoke-Poges by the families of Molins, Hungerford and Hastings. Sir John Molins had the king's licence to fortify and embattle his houses at Stoke and Ditton, in 1331. Ditton park belonged to the crown in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; it was afterwards the property and seat of Sir Ralph Winwood author of the Memorials, and secretary of state to King James I.: after the death of his son Richard, it devolved to Ralph Lord Montagu (afterwards Duke of Montagu), whose father had married the heiress of the Winwoods. Of late years Ditton has been the seat of Earl Beauclieu, who died in 1803. He possessed it in right of his lady, the Dutchess-dowager of Manchester, daughter and sole heir of John Duke of Montagu. It is now by bequest the property of the Duchess of Buccleugh; the reversion is vested in her second son Lord Montagu.

Ditton-house is said to have been built by Sir Ralph Winwood: it is at present unoccupied.

Richard Winwood esq. son of the secretary of state, being possessed of the manor of Ditton, purchased the chapel in which divine service had been discontinued for many years, endowed it with 50*l. per annum*, and built a house for the minister. The patronage of the donative was by him vested in his heirs, and in default of heirs, in the proprietor of the manor of Ditton for the time being.

Baylies, in this parish, the seat of the late Lord Godolphin, was rebuilt by Dr. Gregory Hascard dean of Windsor. The former mansion had been the chief seat of the Duke of Cleveland. This, with many other estates, was bequeathed by the late Lord Godolphin to Lord Francis Godolphin Osborne, second son of the late Duke of Leeds. The house was lately in the occupation

tion of the Earl of Roslyn, who died there in the month of January 1805. It is at present unoccupied.

Other principal seats in this parish are Stoke-place, on Stoke-green, lately Sir George Howard's, now General Vyse's. Stoke-farm, the earl of Sefton's; and West-end house, the Rev. Dr. Browning's.

Sir John Molins had a charter for a fair at Stoke-Poges in 1331, to be held on the festival of St. Giles and the six following days. This has been discontinued, but there is a fair for toys upon Stoke-green on Whitfun Tuesday.

STONE, in the hundred of Aylesbury and deanery of Wendover, lies nearly three miles west of Aylesbury, on the road to Thame. The manor was anciently in the family of Braci, afterwards in that of Whittingham. It has been since held for many years by the Lees with the adjoining manor of Hartwell, and is now the property of the Rev. Sir George Lee bart.

The parish church which was consecrated in 1273^f, retains some vestiges of the architecture of that period. The rectory was given by the Braci family to the priory of Ofeney. By the act of parliament which passed for inclosing this parish in 1776, it appears that the Lees were entitled to the great tithes of Southwarp in Stone, and the earl of Chesterfield to those of the remainder of the parish. Allotments of land were then assigned to the impropiators and to the vicar, who was entitled to the tithes of hay. Sir George Lee is patron and incumbent of the vicarage.

STOWE, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies nearly three miles to the north-west of the county town. The manor was given by Robert Doyley to the abbot and convent of Ofeney. King Henry VIII. granted it to Robert King the first bishop of Oxford, who had been abbot of Ofney, and his successors in that see. In 1590, the bishop of Oxford having previously surrendered it to the crown, it was granted to Thomas Crompton and another person^g, who immediately conveyed it to John Temple esq. whose family were originally of Sheepey, in Leicestershire, and afterwards of Burton-Basset in Warwickshire. His father, Peter Temple esq. was the first of the family who settled at Stowe about the year 1554^h, probably as lessee under the bishop of Oxford. Sir Thomas Temple of Stowe was created a baronet in 1612. His great-grandson Sir Richard, who distin-

^f Kennet's Parochial Antiquities.
guish of Buckingham.

^g Pat. 32 Eliz.

^h From the information of the Mar-

guished himself by his military skill and bravery in the wars in Flanders, was created baron Cobham in 1714, and in 1718 advanced to the rank of a viscount, with the same title. Having no issue, and his younger brother having died unmarried, he procured an entail of the peerage on his sister Hester, the wife of Richard Grenville esq. and her heirs male. On the death of Lord Cobham the title of baronet descended to a younger branch of the Temple family, in which it still remains. Mrs. Grenville became Viscountess Cobham, and was soon afterwards created Countess Temple: her eldest son, Richard Earl Temple, dying without issue in 1779, was succeeded in title and estates by his nephew George, who, in 1784, was created Marquis of Buckingham.

Stowe, the seat of the Marquis of Buckingham, has long been esteemed the chief ornament of this county. The approach to it from Buckingham is very grand, particularly as you pass through a Corinthian arch 60 feet in height. From this spot you have a most favourable view of the noble mansion and its surrounding scenery. The house was originally built by Peter Temple esq. in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and rebuilt by Sir Richard Temple K. B. who died in 1697. His son Lord Cobham built a new front and added the wings; but it was improved to its present magnificence by the late Earl Temple, who again rebuilt the front; and the present noble owner, under whose directions the several stately apartments which it contains have been designed and completed. The whole front now extends 916 feet: the central part is 454. The saloon is a very singular and magnificent room of an oval form 60 feet in length and 43 in breadth: on the cornice is a Roman triumph and sacrifice, extending all round the room, executed in alto relievo by Valdre; the principal figures are copied from the pillars of Trajan and Antonine and other public buildings at Rome. The state drawing room is 50 feet by 32; the state gallery 70 feet by 25; the library, recently fitted up, occupies the space which was before filled by the drawing room and dining room: it is of the same size with the state gallery. This noble mansion contains a numerous and valuable collection of pictures by the old masters, and many portraits. Among the most remarkable of the latter are the brave Sir Beville Grenville, who fell at Lansdown, in 1643; Lord Cobham; Mrs. Hester Sandys (daughter of Sir Thomas Temple) the lady mentioned in the account of Latimers as having lived to see 700 of her own descendants; a whole length of Oliver Cromwell, with Sir Peter Temple, as a boy, tying on his sash, by the elder Richardson (given by Sir Peter to Lord Cobham in 1685); Richard Desborough, Cromwell's brother in law, and his wife, by Dobson; Mons. de Vieuville the French ambassador who lost his life at the battle of Newbury, by Vandyke; Camden the antiquary; Dean

Swift; Pope by Hudson; and Addison by Sir Godfrey Kneller. The gardens, which occupy 400 acres, exhibit an extraordinary specimen of what may be effected by art with scarcely any assistance from nature. Their varied surface having been produced almost entirely by the labour of the hand upon ground which was originally nearly level. They were first designed by Lord Cobham, assisted by Bridgman and Kent; to the latter, whose taste was much superior to that of Bridgman, they owe most of their present beauty. Some of the various temples and other buildings which adorn these gardens were designed also by Kent; others by Vanburgh, Gibbs, &c. Launcelot Browne, who afterwards attained such celebrity for his skill and taste in laying out of grounds, came into Lord Cobham's service as a boy, in the year 1737, and was employed in his gardens till 1750; but he had no share, as generally has been supposed, in any of the improvements, they having been completed before he came to Stowe. The good taste which he evinced whilst employed by the Duke of Grafton, to whom he was recommended by Lord Cobham, laid the foundation of his future fame and fortune. It would not be consistent with the intention of this work to enter into a more minute description of this celebrated house and its gardens, which have been so often described, and which have been described very much at large in a quarto volume lately published at Buckingham with numerous plates. The beauties of Stowe have been extolled in poetry by Pope and West, who spent many festive hours with its noble owner, Lord Cobham, and some of the most celebrated of their literary contemporaries. Hammond, the elegiac poet, died whilst on a visit to Stowe in 1742.

The manor of *Dodford*, a hamlet of this parish, belonged in part to the neighbouring monastery of Bittleston: it has long been annexed to that of Stowe.

The site of *Boycot*, a depopulated hamlet, is within the Marquis of Buckingham's grounds. The manor which belonged to the priory of Luffield has long been annexed also to Stowe.

In *Langport*, a hamlet of Stowe, there were anciently two manors, one of which was given to the priory of Oseney, and has passed with Stowe; the other seems to have belonged to the priory of Luffield. An estate held under this priory was, as early as the year 1350, the property of a family who took their name from the hamlet, and passed by marriage, in the year 1416, to the Dayrells. It is now the property of Edmund Dayrell esq. whose house adjoins the Marquis of Buckingham's pleasure grounds.

The parish church contains no monument of the Temple family excepting that of Hester Lady Peniston, daughter of Sir Thomas Temple, who

who died in 1619: several of the family nevertheless lie buried here, as appears by the parish register. Wotton is the burial place of the Grenvilles. In the churchyard was a large yew tree with a remarkable extent of spreading branches, which is now paled off, and stands within the Marquis of Buckingham's grounds. The great tithes, which were appropriated to the priory of Osney, were granted with the manor to the bishop of Oxford, and having since passed with it are now the property of the Marquis of Buckingham, who is patron of the vicarage. Sir Richard Temple endowed the vicarage with 50*l. per ann.*

At Luffield, on the borders of Northamptonshire, just beyond the limits of the Marquis of Buckingham's park, Robert Boffu Earl of Leicester, about the year 1124, founded a priory of Benedictine monks, which was dissolved by King Henry VII. on account of their poverty, and given in 1500 to Westminster abbey. Camden says, that it had been before forsaken by the monks on account of the plague. The site was granted by King Edward VI. to Sir Nicholas Throckmorton, and having passed by marriage to the Temples, is now the property of the Marquis of Buckingham. There are no remains of the conventual buildings; the site is occupied by a farm-house which is extra-parochial, but assessed with Stowe. Browne Willis says that the house, though considered as extra-parochial, stands locally within the parish of Lillingstone-Dayrell, and that there was formerly a chapel at that place dedicated to Thomas à Becket, and given to Luffield priory by the Dayrells. The county of Northampton extends within fifty yards of the house. Browne Willis mentions a part of the ruins as remaining in his time, and standing within the adjoining parish of Silveston in Northamptonshire.

In the reign of King Edward III. the prior claimed the privilege of holding a fair at Luffield for three days, at the festival of the Exaltation of the Cross, and view of frankpledge in Silveston^s.

STONY-STRATFORD, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, is a market town 52 miles from London, lying on the great road to Chester and Liverpool. Till of late years the east side of Stony-Stratford, was in the parish of Wolverton, and the west side in Calverton. They are now two distinct parishes called St. Mary Magdalen, or the east side of Stony-Stratford, and St. Giles, or the west side. A market at this town was granted to the Veres in 1460: in 1663, Simon Bennet lord of the manor of Calverton, procured a charter for a market on Friday (which is the present market day), and four fairs; April 9, the Wednesday

^s Placit. &c. in com. Buck. in Turr. Lond. No. 8.

and Thursday in Whitsun week, the Friday before Michaelmas, and All Saints day. A fair on the festival of St. Giles had been granted to the Veres in 1257, and another on the festival of St. Mary Magdalen in 1290. Browne Willis speaks of four fairs as held in his time at Stony-Stratford, April 11; Thursday in Whitsun-week, July 22, and Nov. 1: there are now only three fairs: August 2 (being the festival of St. Mary Magdalen O. S.) for toys, &c. Oct. 11, and Nov. 12. The town has twice sustained much injury by fire; the first time was in the year 1736, when 53 houses were burnt down: a more destructive fire broke out on the sixth of May 1742, which consumed 113 houses and the church of St. Mary Magdalen, which has never been rebuilt: the tower, which escaped the flames, is yet standing. The damage was estimated at 10,000l; the sum of 4293l. was collected towards the loss by a brief, and nearly 3000l. by subscriptions. According to the returns made to parliament under the Population Act in 1801, there were then 106 houses in the East-side parish containing 528 inhabitants, of whom 261 were males and 267 females; in the West-side parish 193 houses, containing 1125 inhabitants, of whom 545 were males and 580 females.

At this town King Richard the Third, then Duke of Gloucester, accompanied by his friend the Duke of Buckingham, took possession of the person of the unfortunate young monarch Edward V. who was then with his attendants at an inn, and in his presence arrested Lord Richard Grey and Sir Thomas Vaughan^h.

The church of St. Giles on the west side of Stony Stratford, was originally built as a chantry chapel in 1451, and was endowed in 1482. The tower was not erected till some years afterwards, as appears by the will of John Edy, who in 1487 left a sum of money towards its building. This church (excepting the tower) was rebuilt in 1776 by Mr. Hiorne of Warwick: it exhibits a bad imitation of the Gothic style of architecture. The benefices of St. Giles and St. Mary Magdalen in Stony Stratford were consolidated in 1776: they were before two distinct curacies, in the patronage of the Bishop of Lincoln.

A gild at Stony-Stratford founded by John Edy and others was incorporated in the year 1481. There are several charities belonging to the town; the most important is one of 70l. *per annum* for apprenticing children.

The cross erected at Stratford in memory of Eleanor Queen of Edward I. was demolished in the great civil war: it stood at the lower end of the town.

An act of parliament for paving and lighting the streets of Stony-Stratford, passed in 1801.

^h Holinshed.

WATER-STRATFORD, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies about three miles north-west of the county town. The manor belonged anciently to a family who took their name from this place: about the year 1350 it passed to the Giffords: it was afterwards successively in the families of Barton, Fowler, Frankys, and Egerly: by the latter it was sold about the year 1703 to Thomas Cookes Winford, eldest son of Sir Thomas Winford baronet, of whose representatives it was purchased by the family of the present proprietor, B. Hayes esq.

In the church are some memorials of the family of Frankys. The Marquis of Buckingham is patron of the rectory. The advowson belonged formerly to the priory of Luffield. Dr. Robert Siphthorpe, rector of this parish, was charged by the parliament with having been the cause of the fatal rupture between them and their monarch, by his having preached up the royal prerogative as being above the law.

John Mason who was presented to the rectory of Water-Stratford in 1674, became in the latter part of his life a visionary enthusiast: Granger calls him a man of unaffected piety and says that he was esteemed to be possessed of learning and abilities above the common level, till he became bewildered in the mysteries of Calvinism. He was himself firmly persuaded, and persuaded multitudes, that he was the Elias appointed to proclaim the second advent of our Saviour. Among other prophecies he foretold his own resurrection after three days. Great numbers of his deluded followers left their homes and filled all the houses and barns in the neighbourhood of Water-Stratford. Mr. Mason printed a set of rhapsodical hymns for the use of his disciples who sang them in the fields, and we are told that every vagabond and village fidler round the country bore a part in the rude concert¹. Mr. Mason died in full conviction of the reality of his mission. Although from the nature of his prophecies, and the failure of their accomplishment, it might have been expected that his sect would have been more short-lived, yet notwithstanding his successor, Mr. Rushworth, opened his grave some time after his interment, and exposed his corpse to view with the intention of convincing his parishioners of the falsity of his predecessor's prophecies and the wildness of his tenets, yet they continued for several years to assemble at a place they called Holy ground, where some of them affirmed that they had seen and spoken with Mr. Mason after his death. When they were prevented from assembling in this

¹ See Browne Willis's History of the hundred of Buckingham.

field, they met at a house in Water-Stratford. Three pamphlets on this subject were published in 1694, the year after Mr. Mafon's death.

SWANBOURN, in the hundred of Cotflow and deanery of Muresley, lies about two miles and a half to the west of Winslow. The manor belonged to Woburn abbey, and was granted in 1554 to Ambrose Gilbert: it seems to have been since divided into moieties one of which was for many years in the family of Adams. After the death of Mr. James Adams in 1775, this moiety passed by his bequest to Mr. Williamson: it is now by purchase the property of Joseph Farborough esq. The other moiety was some years ago in the family of Askew, and was purchased of them by the Deverells, to whom it still belongs.

In the church are some memorials of the Adams family, and of Mr. Josias Askew who died in 1750, at the age of 94.

The great tithes were formerly appropriated to Woburn abbey. The parish has been inclosed by an act of parliament passed in 1761, when an allotment of land was assigned in lieu of great tithes to James Adams esq. then impropiator, an allotment for the vicar's glebe, and a corn rent in lieu of vicarial tithes; an allotment of land was assigned for the repairs for the church, and another to the poor in lieu of an indulgence of pasture. The vicarage is in the gift of the crown.

TAPLOW, in the hundred and deanery of Burnham, lies near the Bath road, about a mile and a half from Maidenhead. The manor, which it is probable had belonged to some religious house, was held on lease under the crown in the reign of King James I. by Sir Henry Guildford: soon afterwards it became the property of the Hampson family who probably had a grant of it in fee. Thomas Hampson esq. of Taplow was created a baronet in 1642. The heirs of Sir Dennis Hampson sold this manor about the year 1700 to the Earl of Orkney, a distinguished officer in the Duke of Marlborough's wars. His eldest daughter who was married to William O'Brien Earl of Inchiquin, succeeding him in his honours and estates, became Countess of Orkney in her own right: she had two daughters, the elder of whom, the late countess of Orkney, was the first wife of her cousin Murrough, Earl of Inchiquin, since created Marquis of Thomond, who is the present proprietor of Taplow.

Taplow Court, the seat of the Marquis, is an old mansion, formerly the residence of the Hampsons: it stands near the church, and commands a fine view over Windsor forest and the Thames.

Cliefden-

Cliefden-house was purchased of the ancient family of the Manfolds by the witty and profligate Duke of Buckingham, who began a magnificent house upon the site which was purchased and finished by the Earl of Orkney. Frederick Prince of Wales, father of his present Majesty, rented this house of Anne Countess of Orkney, and resided here several summers. This celebrated mansion was destroyed by fire in 1795: scarcely a wreck of its former magnificence remains. Its situation was much superior to that of Taplow-Court, the rich view of Windsor and the surrounding county being heightened by the beauty of the scenery more immediately contiguous.

In the parish church at Taplow is the tomb of Sir Robert Manfeld, and several other memorials of that family. The Marquis of Thomond's aisle was built in 1633 by the Hampsons, whose arms, three hemp-breakers, occur frequently repeated in the cornice. The amiable Anne Countess of Orrery, whose beauty and virtues have been celebrated in the poetical works of her husband and his contemporaries, lies buried in this church^k. She died at Britwell court, a seat of the Earl's, in the neighbouring parish of Burnham.

The rectory, which belonged formerly to Merton abbey^l, is in the gift of the crown. The learned Dr. Hickman, some time bishop of Londonderry, was instituted to it in 1698. The parish has been inclosed by an act of Parliament passed in 1779, when an allotment of land was assigned the rector in lieu of tithes, &c.

THORNBOROUGH, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies about three miles and a half to the east of the county town. The manor belonged to the priory of Luffield, and was given, with the site of that monastery, to Sir Nicholas Throckmorton. Having passed by marriage to the family of Temple; to Thomas Roper, Lord Viscount Baltinglass; and Thomas Lennard Earl of Suffex, it was sold by the latter in 1707 to Benjamin Woodnoth, of whose family it was purchased by the late Earl Verney: it is now the property of his niece Mary Baronefs Fermanagh.

The manor, or reputed manor, of Bartons in this parish, belonging to the Marquis of Buckingham, is the same, probably, which belonged in the fourteenth century to the Damorys and afterwards to the Bartons of Thornton, who gave it by way of endowment to some chantries of their foundation. This chantry estate was granted in 1553 to Edward Chamberlain; it came into the Temple family in 1561 by purchase from Richard Sanders, who bought it of the original

^k Biograph Brit.

^l Manning's Surrey, vol. I. p. 252.

grantee. The president and scholars of Magdalen college in Oxford, have an estate in Thornborough, for which they hold a court-baron: it formed in ancient times part of the endowment of St. John's hospital in Oxford, which was sold about the year 1456, with all its lands to William Waynfleet bishop of Winchester, founder of Magdalen college.

In the church are some memorials of the Woodnoths. The rectory was given to the priory of Luffield by an ancestor of the Barons of Wolverton, and the great tithes were appropriated to that monastery. After the reformation the rectory was for many years annexed to the manor, but is now the property of the Marquis of Buckingham, who is patron of the vicarage. The parish has been inclosed by an act of parliament passed in 1797, when an allotment of land was given to the Marquis of Buckingham as rector, another allotment to the family of Lowndes as proprietors of a portion of tithes, and a corn rent to the vicar with a small allotment of land not exceeding 15 acres. An allotment of land was assigned to the poor in lieu of their right of cutting furze.

THORNTON, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies about four miles to the north-east of the county town. The manor was anciently in the families of Iveri and St. Walery. From the latter it passed in marriage to Robert de Dreux, who was succeeded by the families of Hareng and Savage. About the year 1264, it became the property of the Chastillons, who had a seat at Thornton and were of considerable consequence in the county for more than a century, during the greater part of which time some of the family were knights of the shire. In 1414 this manor passed by purchase to the Bartons, and from them in 1464 to the Ingeltons. Robert Ingelton of this place was Chancellor of the Exchequer to King Edward IV. Jane, only daughter of George Ingelton, who died in 1503, married Humphrey Tyrrell (of the ancient family of the Tyrrells of Essex) who seated himself at Thornton and was ancestor of the Tyrrells of this place, the Tyrrells of Castlethorpe, and the Tyrrells of Oakley in this county. Sir Edward Tyrrell of Thornton was created a baronet in 1627: the title became extinct by the death of Sir Thomas Tyrrell bart. in 1755. Thornton is now the property and seat of Thomas Sheppard esq. whose mother (the lady of Dr. Cotton) was daughter of Sir Charles Tyrrell bart. cousin and immediate predecessor of Sir Thomas Tyrrell above mentioned.

The ancient seat of the Tyrrells was modernized by the late Dr. Cotton: Browne Willis describes it as a quadrangular building of great antiquity and speaks of a noble gallery 125 feet in length.

The parish church has been very neatly and commodiously fitted up by the present lord of the manor, but the antiquary will regret the removal of the ancient monuments. The effigies on brass plates of Robert Ingelton, chancellor of the exchequer, who died in 1472, and his three wives, and that of Jane Ingelton, who brought Thornton to the Tyrrells, are all in remarkably fine preservation, but cannot be expected to remain so much longer, for the altar tombs on which they were fixed, having been removed, they are now placed on the ground on each side the altar. The effigies in alabaster of John Barton, founder of a chantry at Thornton, who died in 1443, and that of his wife Isabella, have been removed from under an arch between the church and chancel to the west end, where they now occupy each side of the entrance to the church. There are no memorials for the family of Tyrrell, excepting a tablet for the last baronet. Mr. Sheppard is patron of the rectory. William Bredon, rector of this parish, who died in 1638, was celebrated for his skill in calculating nativities, and had a share in composing Sir Christopher Heydon's Judicial Astrology.

TINGEWICK, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies two miles and a half west of Buckingham, on the road to Banbury. It had formerly a weekly market on Tuesdays, granted in 1246, to the abbey *De Monte Rothomago*, in Normandy, to which monastery the manor had been given by the family of Finimore, in 1210: it was purchased of the abbey, by William of Wickham, and by him made part of the endowment of New College, in Oxford.

In the parish church is a curious brass plate against the east wall of the chancel, with a half-length portrait of Erasmus Williams, rector of Tingewick, who died in 1608, neatly engraved. He is represented with uplifted hands, in the attitude of prayer, and habited in a gown. On each side of him is a pillar, on which hang astronomical, musical, and geometrical instruments, painting utensils, various books, &c. On the top of one of the pillars is a globe, on the other an owl. There are various other devices, as a sun and rainbow, &c. and several texts of scripture. Underneath is the following epitaph:

“ This doth Erasmus Williams represent,
 “ Whom living all did love, dead all lament;
 “ His humane Arts behind his back attend,
 “ Whereon spare hours he wisely chose to spend;
 “ And from Corinthian columns deck'd with arts
 “ Now to the Temple's pillar he converts,
 “ Under the rainbow arch of promise, where
 “ Of hoped bliss no deluge he need fear:

" He of this church did a firm pillar live,
 " To whom dead his wife doth these pillars give.
 " Continued by his scholar and his friend,
 " Who wish'd their love and lives had had one end,
 " Erasmus More's Encomium set forth,
 " We want a More to praise Erasmus' worth.

At the corner is the name of R. Haydocke, who, if he wrote the epitaph, was a much better artist than poet. That he was the artist there can be little doubt, and that it was Dr. Richard Haydocke, the physician, who was a contemporary of Mr. Williams: he translated Lomatus on painting and engraving, and engraved his own portrait and other plates for that work.

The warden and scholars of New College are patrons of the rectory, to which a manor is annexed. The advowson belonged formerly to the priory of Harmondsworth, in Middlesex^a. The parish has been inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1773, when an allotment of land was assigned to the rector in lieu of tithes, and a small allotment to the poor in lieu of their right to cut furze.

Francis Edmonds, the late rector, who died in 1759, founded a charity school for six boys and six girls, and left an endowment for instructing and clothing them.

TOTTENHOE, in the hundred of Cotflow and deanery of Muresley, lies about six miles north-east of Winslow, and about the same distance south-east of Stony-Stratford. The manor was anciently in the family of Martell, who founded the neighbouring monastery of Snellshall, afterwards till 1416 in the Jarponvilles. In 1477, having in the mean time passed through several hands, it was purchased by Thomas Stafford, descended from a younger branch of the family of Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, and son of Sir Humphrey Stafford, who was slain by Jack Cade. This Thomas Stafford left a natural son, whose descendants had for many generations a seat at Tottenhoe, and continued possessed of the manor till it was mortgaged by Charles Stafford, the last of the family, who dissipated his estate, and died in great poverty in 1716. The manor of Tottenhoe having been first mortgaged to them, was purchased by the Selby family, and is now the property of William Selby esq. of Winslow.

There are no remains of the manor-house: the church, a small mean building, stands within its moated site. It was rebuilt in 1540, but the parish being small, it had been for some time disused and desecrated, when upon the rector of Shenley laying claim to the tithes of Tottenhoe, Mr. Stafford, then proprietor of the manor,

^a Placit Inquis, &c. de terris in Turr. Lond. Co. Bucks. No. 15.

procured it to be re-consecrated, in 1636, and endowing it with tithes, presented to the benefice as a rectory. The great tithes were formerly appropriated to the priory of Snellhall. This parish contains only four houses.

TOWERSEY, in the hundred of Ashendon, about two miles east of Thame, in Oxfordshire, lies within the county of Buckingham, but is a hamlet belonging to that town: it has a chapel of ease. The manor has been for some years the property of George Bowden esq. it was before in Lord Wentworth's family.

TURVILLE, in the hundred of Desborough and deanery of Wycombe, lies on the borders of Oxfordshire, about eight miles west of Wycombe, about seven miles north-west of Marlow, and about the same distance from Henley. There are two manors in this parish, one of which was in the family of Morteyne, from the reign of Edward I. till about the year 1406, when it passed by a female heir to the Botilers. In 1546, it was purchased by Sir John Williams, and soon afterwards passed to the ancient family of Doyley, and from them about the year 1703, by marriage to the Pocockes. In 1753, it was purchased of Mrs. Pococke, a widow lady, by John Osborne, the celebrated bookseller, whose son is the present proprietor.

The other manor belonged to the abbey of St. Alban's, and was granted by King Henry VIII. to Edward Chamberleyne, who conveyed it to the Dormer family. In 1653, John Ovey esq. bought the whole, or a part of this estate of Mr. West, who had not long before purchased it of the Dormers. From Mr. Ovey's family it passed by marriage to the Perrys. Mr. Perry, who married one of the coheiresses of the Sidneys, Earls of Leicester, built a fine seat at Turville park, and was sheriff of the county in 1741. Turville park is now the property and seat of Thomas Butlin esq. who purchased it of Mr. Shelly, son-in-law, and in right of his wife, heir of Mr. Perry.

In the church are some memorials of the families of Doyley, Pococke, and Perry. The rectory, which was appropriated to the abbey of St. Alban's, is now in severalties, together with the advowson of the vicarage.

TURWESTON, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies on the borders of Northamptonshire, near Brackley, about six miles and a half from Buckingham. Before the reign of Edward the first, the manor belonged successively to the families of Fulgeres, Stovill, and Baynell. Having escheated to the crown, it was given by king Edward I. to the monks of Westminster, and after the reformation formed a part of the endowment of the dean and chapter. The manor house was

rented many years ago by Lord Viscount Hillsborough, which occasioned the author of an Irish peerage, published in 1722, to insert it as one of the seats of that family : it is at present unoccupied. The lease of the manor is now vested in the representatives of the late Mr. Derbshire, before it came into his possession, it had been for some time in the family of Welchman. The dean and chapter of Westminster are patrons of the rectory.

TWYFORD, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies on the borders of Oxfordshire, about seven miles south-west of Buckingham. The manor was anciently in the family of Fulgeres, and having been forfeited to the crown, was given to William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke. In the reign of Henry III. it was the property of Ralph Fitz-Nicholas, who had a grant of a fair at Twyford, in 1251. Ralph, his younger son, who took the surname of Pipard, and was steward of the king's hawks, succeeded his father in this manor. From his family it passed by marriage to the Botelers, Earls of Ormond, and was held under them by the family of Giffard, who afterwards became possessed of the fee. Ursula, daughter and heir of Thomas Giffard, who died in 1550, brought this manor in marriage to Thomas Wenman esq. ancestor of the late Lord Viscount Wenman. It is now vested in his lordship's executor, in trust for his nephew P. T. Wykham esq. The Giffards were seated at Twyford, as early as the year 1340 ; it was afterwards a principal seat of the Wenman family : the ancient manor-house having gone to decay, they resided afterwards at a house called the Lodge. Twyford was wholly deserted by them, about the beginning of the last century, when the lodge was converted into a farm-house. The church of Twyford continued to be the family burial place, and there are several monuments for them, but none which require any particular description. An ancient monument of a crusader is supposed to have been intended for Sir John Giffard, or one of that family. The south door of the church has a curious Saxon arch.

The advowson of the rectory was given by the family of Fulgeres, to the monastery of Fengers, in Normandy. In the reign of Henry III. the abbot gave it to the see of Lincoln, in which it continued till 1475, when Bishop Rotheram, one of the founders of Lincoln College, annexed it for ever to the rectorship of that society.

Charndon and *Poundon* are hamlets of this parish. Twyford and Charndon were inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1774 ; when an allotment was assigned to the rector in lieu of tithes. A good house has been built on this allotment, which is the summer residence of the rector of Lincoln College. The curate resides in the old parsonage-house near the church.

TYRINGHAM,

TYRINGHAM, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies about two miles from Newport-Pagnell, near the road to Northampton. The manor belonged to the ancient family who took their name from the village, as early as the year 1170. They continued to flourish at this place, which was their principal seat, and occasionally filled the most distinguished offices in the county, till the year 1685, when the elder branch became extinct in the male line, by the death of Sir William Tyringham, whose daughter and heir brought this estate in marriage to John Backwell esq. It is now by descent from the Backwells, the property of William Praed esq. who has pulled down the old manor-house, and built in its stead an elegant modern mansion. In the parish church are some memorials of the family of Tyringham. Mr. Praed is patron of the rectory, which was united to Filgrave in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; the advowson was formerly in the priory of Tickford, by gift from the Tyringhams. Tyringham and Filgrave are now considered as one parish; Tyringham, when separate, consisted only of two houses, the united parish has now 24: the church of Filgrave is in ruins. The manor of Filgrave was anciently in the families of Paganell and Somery; it afterwards came to the Tyringhams, and has since been annexed to the manor of Tyringham.

UPTON, in the hundred of Stoke and deanery of Burnham, lies about three miles and a half to the north-west of Colnbrook, near *Slough*, which is a hamlet of this parish. The manor of Upton *cum Chalvey*, which had belonged to Merton Abbey, was on lease to the Barkers, in the reign of James I; it is now the property of George Edwards esq. of Henlow, in Bedfordshire, whose family possessed it as early as the year 1725; it was before in the Lanes.

Upton Court, a manor farm, now the property of William Lascelles esq. a bencher of the Inner-Temple, was many years in the family of Lane, of whom it was purchased by the grandfather of the present proprietor.

In the parish church, which is an ancient Saxon structure, are memorials for Edward Bulstrode, Squire of the body to King Henry VII. and King Henry VIII. and others of that ancient family, who were of Bulstrode in this parish: in the church-yard are memorials of the Lanes.

The rectory of Upton, which was given to Merton Abbey, by Paganus de Beauchamp, became the property of Eton College, by an exchange many years before the reformation: the vicarage is in the gift of the crown.

Bulstrode, the seat of the ancient family of that name, became afterwards the property and residence of that detested character, Lord Chancellor Jefferies, who being then Sir George Jefferies knt. and chief justice of Chester, and described as of Bulstrode, in the county of Buckingham, was made a baronet in the year 1681.

It

It has been erroneously supposed that Bulstrode was forfeited by his attainder at the revolution, and given to the Earl of Portland; the fact is, that it was purchased by that Nobleman, of Mr. Dyve, son-in-law of the chancellor, about the latter end of King William's reign: the earl, who had the chief superintendence of the expedition, which placed that monarch on the throne of these realms, was sometimes visited by his royal master at Bulstrode. After the king's death he retired wholly to this place, where he took great delight in improving his gardens, and where he died in 1709: his son, who was created Duke of Portland in 1716, was grandfather to the present noble owner of Bulstrode.

Bulstrode house was built in 1686, by Lord Chancellor Jefferies; the offices are the remains of an older mansion, which it is probable was built by the Bulstrodes. At Bulstrode house is a small collection of pictures, by the old masters, among which the most remarkable are a holy family by Raphael, St. Cecilia by Carlo Dolce, and Orpheus charming the brutes by Roland Savery. Among the portraits are the first Earl of Portland, and others of this noble family; and Henry Wriothesley, Earl of Southampton, with the cat that accompanied him in the tower. The park, which contains about eight hundred acres, exhibits a pleasing variety of surface, and is well wooded.

The manor of Bulstrode belonged formerly to the abbess and convent of Burnham; in 1337, they had the king's licence to alienate it to William Montacute, earl of Salisbury^b, who the same year gave it to the monks of Bisham^b. This manor was purchased of Sir William Bowyer, by Sir Roger Hill, and by him sold in 1686, to Lord Chancellor Jefferies^d; it has since passed with Bulstrode house, and is now the property of the Duke of Portland.

Slough, a well-known thoroughfare on the Bath road, is, as before-mentioned, a hamlet of Upton. It has for several years been the residence of the celebrated astronomer Dr. Herschel. The forty feet telescope of his own construction, with which he has made most of those discoveries which will immortalize his name, stands in his garden at this place.

Chalvey is another hamlet in this parish.

WADDESDON, in the hundred of Ashendon, gives name to the deanery in which it is situated. It lies about five miles and a half from Aylesbury, on the road to Bicester. The manor, which successively belonged to Robert Doyley and his sons-in-law, Milo Crispin and Brien Fitzcount, was seized by King Henry II. on the

^b Pat. 11 Edw. III.

^c Ibid.

^d From the information of Mr. Way of Denham.

latter

latter having assumed a religious order, and given to the Courtenays. In consequence of the attainder of one of that family, it was by two several grants in the possession of Archbishop Neville and Henry Bouchier, Earl of Essex. It was afterwards restored to the Courtenays, but being again forfeited, was granted by King Henry VIII. in 1540, to the Goodwins, from whom it passed by a female heir to the noble family of Wharton. It is now the property of his grace the Duke of Marlborough, whose father purchased it of the last Duke of Wharton or his representatives, together with the manors of Ham, Westcôte, and Warmelton, in this parish, all of which had belonged to the Goodwins. The manor of Westcote was part of the estates of Thomas Duke of Gloucester, who was murdered in 1398.

Ethorp, in this parish, was the manor and seat of the ancient family of De Arcubus or Arches, as early as the year 1309. Richard de Arches, of Ethorp, was one of the knights of the shire in 1402; not long afterwards Ethorp became the seat of the Denhams: Sir John Denham died, seized of it in 1458. The same year Roger Denham, who it is probable was his son and heir, built and endowed a chantry chapel at this place. In the reign of Edward VI. Ethorp belonged to the Dormers, and was settled by Sir William Dormer, on his wife Dorothy, the daughter and coheir of Anthony Catesby esq; this lady, after the death of her first husband, married the brave Sir William Pelham, who distinguished himself during the wars in the Netherlands, and died at Flushing in 1587. Ethorp was his country seat, as appears by his last will, in which he leaves all his furniture there to his wife Dorothy, who survived him many years, and in 1610 built some additional rooms at the west end of the house, in one of which are to be seen her arms and initials, with the above date over a chimney piece. The armoury, which has a wooden sloping roof, ornamented with red and white roses, was built by Sir William Dormer; at the base of the rafters are angels bearing shields, with arms of the family of Dormer and their alliances; it is hung round with a variety of ancient armour and accoutrements. From the Dormers Ethorp passed by marriage to the Stanhopes, and was the country seat of Sir William Stanhope, who added the more modern part of the house, and erected several large buildings in the pleasure grounds and plantations, resembling the ruins of amphitheatres, castles, &c. In 1728, at the desire of his lady, he fitted up the chantry chapel at Ethorp, and divine service was performed in it for a few years; but in 1738, says Browne Willis, "he most wickedly, sacrilegiously, and impiously demolished the chapel, though warned against it by Dr. Carmichael," and made use of the stones to build a bridge, which he was then about to throw over the Thame, near the house. Before the abolition of chantries, the priest had his lodging and maintenance at

Sir Robert Dormer's house. Ethorp is now the property of the Earl of Chesterfield, but he seldom visits it, and the greater part of the furniture has been removed. Among the few pictures which remained there in 1801, was a good portrait of Charles the First, with his son and successor when a boy; Robert Dormer, Earl of Carnarvon, who fell at the battle of Newbury, and his countess; Lucy, Countess of Bedford, Sir William Stanhope, and Philip, Earl of Chesterfield. The gallery, 138 feet in length, appears to have been fitted up about the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

Blagrove, a manor farm in the parish of Waddeston, has within the last century undergone several alienations; it is now the property of Charles Shaw Lefevre esq. M. P.

The manor, or manor farm, of Colwick, Collet or Collick, in this parish, belonged for several years to the Deacles, and is now by marriage the property of Mr. Griffith.

The manor, or manor farm of Cranwell, in this parish, is the property of Richard Bard Harcourt esq.

In the parish church of Waddeston is the monument of Guy Carleton, a veteran soldier, who died June 1, 1608, aged 94. It is not improbable that he was an ancestor of his namesake Sir Guy Carleton Lord Dorchester, who has followed his steps in the field of valour, and attained more honourable distinction. On his monument is the following epitaph:

“ Whilst I was young, in wars I shed my blood,
Both for my king and for my Country's good;
In elder years my care was chief to be
Soldier to him who shed his blood for me.”

The rectory of Waddeston is divided into three portions; the portionists reside and officiate alternately; the Patronage of all three is vested in the Duke of Marlborough. Robert Parsons, one of the portionists of Waddeston, preached the funeral sermon on the death of the celebrated Earl of Rochester, which is printed at the end of Bishop Burnet's memoirs of that nobleman.

Sir Francis Goodwin founded an alms-house at Waddeston, for six poor persons, and endowed it with 30*l. per annum*. Mr. Lewis Fetto founded a charity school at this place, in 1724.

Westcote and *Woodham* are hamlets or tithings belonging to this parish. Certain fields in the tithing of Westcote were inclosed by an act of parliament passed in 1765. The whole parish has been since inclosed by an act passed in 1774, when

allotments

allotments of land were assigned in lieu of tithes, to the portionists, and a composition directed to be paid for the tithes of old inclosures.

WALTON, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies about three miles to the north of Fenny-Stratford. There were anciently two manors in this parish, one of which was, about the year 1200, in the family of Rixband, afterwards in the Hunts, from whom it passed by marriage to the Longuevilles. It was purchased of the latter by Bartholomew Beale, whose son Charles was husband of Mrs. Beale the painter. About the latter end of the seventeenth century Sir Thomas Pinfold bought this manor either immediately of the Beales, or of some persons who had not long before purchased it of them. It is now the property of Charles Pinfold esq. of Ayot St. Lawrence, in the county of Herts. The other manor was anciently in the family of Grey, and came to the crown in exchange in the year 1520. In 1627, it was granted to Williams and others, of whom it was soon afterwards purchased by Mr. Beale, since which time the two manors have been united.

In the parish church is the monument of Bartholomew Beale, lord of the manor, who died in 1660, put up in 1672, by his sons Charles and Henry, at the expence of 45*l.* as appears by an extract from Mrs. Beale's pocket book, printed in Lord Orford's anecdotes of painting, where by a mistake this monument is said to be at Walton upon Thames, in Surrey. The medallions of Mr. Beale and his wife, in bas relief, are placed in circular niches, and do credit to the artist, Thomas Burman, of whom little is known, but that he was the master of Bushnell, who attained much greater celebrity as a statuary. In this church is the monument also of Sir Thomas Pinfold, chancellor of the diocese of Peterborough, and commissary of St. Paul's, who died in 1701, with his medallion, by Nollekens, and an epitaph on Elizabeth Pixe, who died in 1617, which reminds us of Bishop Lowth's celebrated epitaph on his daughter :

*" Elizabetha vale, mea Lux, mea vita, quousque
Jungitur in cœlis, filia ohara vale."*

The rectory is in the alternate presentation of the crown, and of Mr. Pinfold, as lord of the manor.

WAVENDON, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies on the borders of Bedfordshire, in the great road to London, five miles from Newport-Pagnell, and four from Woburn. The principal manor was in the Passelews, from 1180 till 1313, and afterwards successively in the families of Peyvre, Green, Stafford, Fitz-

hugh, Cranwell, Beale, Cullen, and Isaacson. It is now the property of Mrs. Denison, widow of the late principal of Magdalen-Hall, in Oxford, who is descended from the Isaacsons.

Another manor passed from the Bolebecs, by female heirs, to the Veres and Courtenays. This manor, or reputed manor, which had been before demised to John Sheppard, was granted in fee to him and his heirs, in 1557, as having been then lately the property of the attainted Marquis of Exeter. Some pits of fullers earth are mentioned in the grant as being on this estate. It has since been in the family of Wells, and is now the property of Mr. Dixie.

A third manor, or reputed manor, which had been given by the Bolebecs or Veres, to Woburn Abbey, was granted in 1559, to Campion and Thompson. It has since been divided into severalties. The act of parliament which passed in 1788, for inclosing this parish, describes the several owners of these estates, as claiming the manor of Wavendon and a right to the heath. The claims were to be examined into, and the act allots land to the lord of the manor "*if any.*" The commissioners, after examining into the several claims, determined that Mrs. Denison's was the only estate entitled to an allotment on account of manorial rights.

Mr. Serjeant Selby had an estate in this parish, on which he built a house for his own residence. Since the death of his son, the late Mr. Selby, it has passed through several hands, and is now the property and residence of Henry Hugh Hoare esq.

Mr. Selby was patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Newport-Pagnell. The advowson is now vested in Mr. Leonard Hampson of Luton. The act of parliament abovementioned did not exonerate this parish from tithes.

In the church are some memorials of the family of Saunders, of Battlefden, among which is that of Richard Saunders esq. who died in 1639, having had 27 children by four wives. Mr. George Wells, who died in 1714, and his niece, Mrs. Miller, gave the sum of 1000*l.* with which a charity school was built, and endowed with lands, producing a rent of 40*l.* *per annum* for instructing, clothing, and apprenticing 10 boys.

WENDOVER, in the hundred of Aylesbury, is a market town, 35 miles from London, on the road to Aylesbury and Buckingham. It gives name to the deanery in which it is situated. The earliest charter for a market to be found on record, is in 1403. A subsequent charter of the year 1464, confirms a market on Thursdays, and two fairs^a to the men of Wendover^b. The market, which is now on

^a At the festival of St. Matthew, and St. Philip and St. James.

^b Pat. 4 Edw. IV. p. 2.

Tuesdays, is very inconsiderable. John Molins had a grant of a fair on the festival of St. Barnabas in 1349. The present fairs are May 13 and October 2.

The town of Wendover sent members to parliament as early as the year 1300. This privilege, after a discontinuance of above 300 years, was restored in 1623, by the exertions of Mr. Hakeville, a barrister of Lincoln's Inn. The right of election is vested in all the house-keepers residing within the limits of the borough, and not receiving alms. The celebrated John Hampden, the patriot, represented the borough of Wendover in five parliaments.

The manor was given by King Henry II. to Faramus de Boulogne, and from him descended by a female heir to the family of Fiennes. It having been forfeited by an attainder, King Edward III. gave it to Sir John Molins, in 1341. Having reverted to the crown in the same reign, it was given to Alice Perrers, the king's favorite, on whose disgrace at the commencement of the ensuing reign, it was seized by King Richard II. who granted it in 1380 to his half brother, Thomas Holland, Earl of Kent^c, and in 1388, to Edward Duke of York^d, who dying without male issue, it reverted to the crown, and was from time to time granted for life to the queen or some of the branches of the royal family, till the year 1564, when it was granted in fee to Sir Francis Knollys, and Catherine his wife. About the year 1660, it was purchased by the Hampden family, in whom the fee is still vested, subject to an interest in it, purchased by Lord Carrington, during the life of the present Lord Hampden.

The manor of Martyns, in Wendover, which had belonged to the Dormers, was purchased of that family, in 1670, by Thomas Lewes esq. alderman of London, and passed with West-Wycombe to the Dashwoods. It is now the property of Matthew Raper esq. The manor of Wyvelsgate, in Wendover, has been many years in the family of Colet or Collett. Sir Henry Colet, lord mayor of London, and father of Dean Colet, the founder of St. Paul's school, was of this family, and born in the parish of Wendover. The family of Collet has lately become extinct in the male line; and on the death of the last Mr. Collett, the estate devolved to his nephew, Mr. Richard Stratfold, who has taken the name of Collett in addition to his own. The mercers company have the manor of Hale in this parish, being part of the estate left by Dr. John Colet, dean of St. Paul's, to that company for charitable uses.

The parish church, which stands a quarter of a mile from the town, contains no monuments worthy of notice. There are the remains of a chapel in the town,

^c Pat. 4 Rich. II.

^d Pat. 12 Rich. II.

which was dedicated to St. John. It has been long disused. The vicarage is in the gift of the crown. In 1771, an act of parliament passed for making exchanges in this parish, and settling a corn-rent on the vicar in lieu of tithes. Another act for the inclosure of the whole parish excepting Bottendown-hill, passed in 1794, when allotments of land were made to Lord Hampden, Matthew Raper, and others as impropiators, and to the vicar, for the glebe and vicarial tithes. The great tithes were formerly appropriated to the monastery of St. Mary Overie, in Southwark.

Roger de Wendover, the historian, who was historiographer to King Henry III. is said to have been a native of this place.

WESTBURY, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies about five miles north-west of the county town, near the road to Brackley. The manor was successively in the families of Iveri, St. Walery, Hareng, and L'Estrange. From the latter, who possessed it as early as the year 1310, it passed about two hundred years afterwards by a female heir to the Mordaunts. Sir L'Estrange Mordaunt bart. sold it in 1613 to the Washingtons, from whom it passed in 1639 to the Lytteltons. It is now the property of J. P. Withers, a minor, descended in the female line from the Prices, whose ancestor, Roger Price esq. purchased it of the Lytteltons in 1650.

The Marquis of Buckingham claims a paramount manor over this parish, as having been anciently part of the honor of Wallingford, and afterwards of that of Ewelme. This right is inherited from the Temples, and is supposed by Browne Willis to have been derived from royal grant, in the reign of James I. The rectory, to which a manor was annexed, belonged formerly to the abbey of Elstow, near Bedford. After the reformation it was granted to the Wellesbourns, and from them passed by a female heir to the family of Sill. The Lytteltons having purchased it in 1642, it has ever since been annexed to the lay manor. The rectorial house, (now pulled down,) was the seat of the Lytteltons for a short time, and afterwards of the Prices. In 1643, being then the seat of Sir Thomas Lyttelton, it was plundered by some of the parliamentary army. The advowson of the vicarage^c is annexed to the rectorial manor. This parish has been inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1763, when allotments of land were assigned in lieu of the great and small tithes.

^c Browne Willis says, that Roger Price, who purchased the estate of the Lytteltons, rebuilt the vicarage house, and endowed the vicarage with the great tithes; but there must be some mistake in this account; the rectorial estate being now the property of the lord of the manor, to whom an allotment of land in lieu of the great tithes was made under the inclosure act.

WESTON-TURVILLE, in the hundred of Aylesbury and deanery of Wendover, lies about three miles and a half to the south-east of Aylesbury, between the roads to Tring and Wendover. It derived its distinguishing name from a family who possessed the manor in the reign of king John. The king is now Lord Paramount in right of the duchy of Lancaster, and there are at least three subordinate manors in this parish. One of these was in the Mowbrays, afterwards in the Penns, and is now by female descent the property of Lord Curzon.

Another manor belongs to the mercers company, to whom it was given by Dr. John Colet, Dean of St. Paul's, in trust for charitable purposes.

The manors of Botelers and Molins have been long united. The former belonged to the Botelers, who gave name to it, and passed from them to the Talbots Earls of Shrewsbury. Molins was the property of Sir John Molins, who had the king's licence to embattle his house at Turville in 1331. From him it passed by inheritance to the families of Hungerford and Hastings. Both these manors belonged to the Windfor family in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and afterwards for many years to the Hills. They are now the property of Mrs. Tomkins, whose husband's family became possessed of them about the middle of the last century. The manor of Broughton-Stavely, alias Broughton-Holland, lately belonging to Sir John Pakington, and now by a recent purchase to the Marquis of Buckingham, extends over a part of this parish. The rectory is in the gift of the warden and scholars of All Souls College in Oxford, who purchased the advowson of the Hills about the year 1704. The parish of Weston-Turville has been inclosed by an act of parliament passed in 1798, when an allotment of land was assigned to the rector in lieu of tithes. *Bedgrove* is a hamlet of this parish.

WESTON-UNDERWOOD, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies about two miles west of Olney. The manor was anciently in the family of Boson, or Bosun, from whom it passed by female heirs to the Olneys and Throckmortons. It is now the property and seat of George, a younger brother of Sir John Throckmorton bart., who has taken the name of Courtenay.

In the parish church, which was formerly a chapel of ease to Olney, are a few memorials of the Throckmortons. Mr. Courtenay is impropriator of the great tithes, and patron of the curacy.

Cowper the poet resided for several years, during the latter part of his life, at this village, in a house now inhabited by a shopkeeper. Most of his descriptions of rural scenery were drawn from nature in his walks round this place.

WEXHAM, in the hundred of Stoke and deanery of Burnham, lies about four miles to the north-west of Colnbrook, and about a mile and a half to the north of the great road to Bath. The manor belonged to Merton Abbey in Surrey^f; afterwards to the Winwoods, from whom it passed by a female heir to the Duke of Montagu. It is now the property of the Right Honourable Lord Francis Godolphin Osborne, by bequest from the late Lord Godolphin. The rectory is in the gift of the crown. The advowson belonged formerly to the monastery of St. Mary Overie in Southwark. The learned Bishop Fleetwood, before his promotion to the bench, was rector of Wexham. During his residence at this place, which was from 1705 to 1708, he published his *Chronicon Pretiosum*. In 1708 he was made Bishop^g of St. Asaph.

WHADDON, in the hundred of Cotflow and deanery of Muresley, lies about four miles south of Stony-Stratford, and about five miles nearly north of Winslow. The manor of Whaddon, with the office of Keeper of the Chace, was anciently in the Giffards. It was seized by the crown in the reign of King John, and granted to the Earl of Arundel. By a subsequent grant, in 1245, it was given to the Fitzjefferys, from whom it descended by heirs female to Lionel Duke of Clarence, to the Mortimers, and the Plantagenets, by which means it became again vested in the crown. The manor of Whaddon was a part of Jane Seymour's dower. It was afterwards given to the Pigots, and by them sold to the noble family of Grey of Wilton. Whaddon was the seat of the brave Arthur Lord Grey, who, in 1568, was honoured with a visit by Queen Elizabeth, then on her Buckinghamshire progress. Edmund Spenser, the poet, who was his secretary, is said to have been frequently resident with him at this place^h. On the attainder of William Lord Grey, for being concerned with Sir Walter Raleigh in some treasonable practices, this manor was given to Sir George Villiers, afterwards Duke of Buckingham, who occasionally resided at Whaddon-hall, from whence he took the title of Baron. In 1698, the manor and chace were purchased of the representatives of the second duke, by James Selby esq. and Dr. Willis the celebrated physician. The manor, on a partition, became the property of Dr. Willis, and was inherited by his grandson, Browne Willis the antiquary, who resided many years at Whaddon-hall, which was purchased, with the manor, of his representatives, by the late Mr. Selby, who, on the supposition that no heir at law could be found to inherit his estates, which proved to be the case, bequeathed the manor and other property to William Lowndes esq. of Winslow, who has taken the name of Selby. Whad-

^f Manning Surrey, vol. i. p. 247.

^g Alumni Eboracenses.

^h See Stukeley's Itinerary.

don-hall is now the residence of his eldest son, William Lowndes esq. In the parish church are the monuments of Thomas Pigot serjeant at law, who died in 1519 : and of Arthur Lord Grey, of Wilton, who died in 1593. The great tithes of this parish, which belonged formerly to the priory of Newenton-Longueville, were given by William of Wickham to New College in Oxford, together with the advowson of the vicarage.

Dr. Cox, Bishop of Ely, who was tutor to King Edward VI. and one of the composers of the liturgy, was a native of Whaddon.

The late Mr. Coare of Newgate-street, founded a charity school at Whaddon for 20 children, and endowed it with 10*l. per annum*. He built an alms house also, but did not live to complete his intention of endowing it.

Ralph Martell, in the reign of King Henry III. founded a small priory of monks of the Benedictine order at Snelfhall, now called Snelfoe green, in this parish. The prior had a grant of a weekly market on Thursdays at Snelfhall, in 1227. The revenues of the priory were estimated at the time of its suppression at only 18*l.* 1*s.* 11*d.* clear yearly value. The site was granted at three several times to Francis Pigot, Sir Thomas Palmer, and Edmund Ashfield. From the latter it passed by a female heir to the Fortescues, who in 1619 sold it to the Duke of Buckingham. It was included in the purchase made by Selby and Willis in 1698, and has since passed with the manor of Whaddon. There are no remains of the conventual buildings which were in a ruinous state when surveyed by the commissioners, previously to its suppression, in the reign of King Henry VIII.

WHITCHURCH, in the hundred of Cotflow, and deanery of Muresley, lies about five miles from Aylesbury in the road to Buckingham. It had formerly a market on Mondays, granted in 1245, together with a fair on the festival of St. John the Evangelist. The manor was anciently in the Giffards Earls of Buckingham, afterwards in the Bolebecs. Hugh de Bolebec built a castle at Whitechurch, of which the site is plainly discernible, close to the village on the left hand as you pass from Aylesbury to Buckingham. From the Bolebecs this manor passed by a female heir to the Veres Earls of Oxford, by whom it was sold in the reign of Queen Elizabeth to the family of Waterhouse. It was afterwards successively in the families of Watfon and Smith. In 1695, it was purchased of a son of Sir Edward Smith, Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas in Ireland, by the family of Reynolds, from whom it soon afterwards passed to the Russells. In or about the year 1720, it was purchased of Governor John Russell

fell by the family of Rowlands of Caerau, in the isle of Anglesea. This manor is now the property of dame Rebecca Williams, relict of Sir David Williams bart. and mother of the late Sir David Williams.

In the parish church is a monument of Chief Justice Smith, who died in 1682. The great tithes were appropriated to Woburn abbey. When the parish was inclosed under an act of parliament passed in 1771, allotments of land were assigned to the impropiator and to the vicar in lieu of tithes. The rectorial estate is now the property of Major-general Northey Hopkins, under the will of his uncle the late Richard Hopkins esq. of Oving. The vicarage is the gift of the crown.

OVER, or UPPER-WINCHENDON, in the hundred of Ashendon and deanery of Waddeston, lies about six miles west of Aylesbury. The manor was given by King Henry I. to the canons of St. Frideswide in Oxford. After the suppression of that convent it was given to Cardinal Wolsey. On the cardinal's fall the grant was resumed, and it continued in the crown till 1623, when it was granted to the family of Goodwin, and passed in marriage with Jane, daughter and heir of Arthur Goodwin esq. to Philip Lord Wharton: his son Thomas, who was in 1706 created Viscount Winchendon, Earl, and afterwards Marquis of Wharton, made Winchendon his chief residence, having enlarged the manor-house, and made it a magnificent mansion. The gardens were esteemed superior to any then in the county, and were particularly celebrated for a fine collection of orange trees. Philip Lord Wharton, who succeeded his father in his title and estates, was, in 1718, created Duke of Wharton. Granger relates an anecdote of the facetious Colley Cibber, that riding with the duke in his coach at Winchendon, where the soil is a stiff clay, and the roads very deep and heavy, thus addressed himself to his noble companion: report says that your grace is running out of your estates, I am sure that 'tis impossible for you to *run* out of *this*. The duke of Wharton having been attainted of treason for acting in favour of the pretender, and his estates confiscated, the manor of Over-Winchendon, was sold to Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough, and the house and gardens, after a very short-lived fame, became dilapidated and neglected. The house was pulled down about the year 1760. Some of the offices have been fitted up for the residence of a steward. The estate is now the property of his grace the Duke of Marlborough, who has the impropriation of the great tithes formerly belonging to the canons of St. Frideswide, and is patron of the vicarage.

In the church is the tomb of Sir John Stodel, a vicar of Winchendon, with his effigies on a brass plate, remarkably well preserved.

LOWER

LOWER OR NETHER-WINCENDON, in the hundred of Ashendon and deanery of Waddeston, lies about seven miles west of Aylesbury. A moiety of the manor was given to Nutley Abbey, by the founder, Walter Giffard, Earl of Buckingham. The other moiety, which had been the property of Robert Humet, constable to King Henry II. and had passed in marriage with his daughter and heir to Baldwin de Wake, was given to the same abbey in 1216. After the reformation, the site of the manor of Nether-Winchendon was granted to John Lord Ruffel, whose son, Francis Earl of Bedford, sold it to the Goodwins who in 1560 had a grant of the manor which had been reserved by the crown. From the Goodwins this estate passed in marriage to the Tyringhams, a younger branch of which family seated themselves here, and having survived the elder branch, became extinct in the male line, by the death of Francis Tyringham esq. in 1735, when the manor of Lower-Winchendon devolved to his sister Mary, and afterwards to his cousin Jane, who married William Beresford esq. and was many years lady of this manor, which she bequeathed to her maternal cousin german, the late Sir Francis Bernard bart. It is now the property and seat of his younger son, Scrope Bernard esq.

The Marquis of Buckingham has a manor, farm in Nether-Winchendon, called the Marth, which has been many years in the Grenville family.

The great tithes of Nether-Winchendon, which appears to have been formerly a chapel to Crendon, were given to Nutley Abbey by the founder. The parish having been inclosed in the reign of James the First, the lands have since that time been tithe free. Mr. Bernard possesses the lay rectory, and is patron of the curacy.

WING, in the hundred of Cotflow and deanery of Muresley, lies about eight miles north-east of Aylesbury, and about three miles and a half from Leighton-Bufard, in Bedfordshire. The manor was given by the Empress Maud, to the abbot and convent of St. Nicholas at Angiers, who established a cell of Benedictine monks at Ascot, in this parish. This priory and the manor of Wing having been seized as the property of an alien monastery, were granted in 1416 to the nuns of St. Mary de Pré, near St. Alban's. On the suppression of the smaller monasteries, the manor of Wing was given to Cardinal Wolsey: having been resumed by the king on his attainder, it was granted in 1532 to John Penn esq. and in 1544, (the king it is probable having repossessed it by an exchange) to Sir Robert Dormer, who entertained the Princess Elizabeth at Ascot-House, in 1554, when on her road to London as a prisoner, soon after her sister's accession to the throne: his Grandson, Sir Robert, was in 1615 created Baron Dormer of Wing. The eldest son of the first Lord Dormer, who was in 1628 created Viscount Ascot and Earl of Car-

narvon, lost his life fighting bravely for his king at the battle of Newbury, in 1643. The titles of Earl of Carnarvon and Viscount Afcot became extinct on the death of Charles Earl of Carnarvon, without male issue, in 1709: the title of Baron Dormer of Wing devolved to the descendants of a younger son of the first Lord Dormer, who settled at Peterley, in this county. The manor of Wing, and most of the Buckinghamshire estates, passed in marriage with his elder daughter and coheir, to Philip Earl of Chesterfield, and were by him given to his second son, Sir William Stanhope, who leaving no male issue, they descended to the present Earl of Chesterfield. Afcot-house, the seat of the Dormers, which was situated in Wing Park, is described by Browne Willis as having a noble apartment built by Inigo Jones. He says that it was suffered to go to decay after the year 1720, and that Sir William Stanhope, about the year 1727, sold the deer out of the park, and cut down the timber, which was very fine. Mr. Willis mentions that he himself bought some of it at one shilling and sixpence a foot, for building the chapel at Fenny-Stratford: he adds, that in his remembrance the last Earl of Carnarvon kept up great hospitality at Afcot-house, and had a fine bowling green, which was constantly open for the amusement of the neighbouring gentry. Wing Park still remains inclosed, but the house has been many years pulled down.

King Edward II. in the year 1308, confirmed a manor in Wing, together with the advowson of the priory, to John Warren, Earl of Surrey^a. The earl gave it to his brother-in-law, Edmund Earl of Arundel, to whom it was confirmed by the king in 1315^b. From the Earl of Arundel it descended by female heirs to the Mowbrays and Berkeleys. The Marquis of Berkeley gave it with other estates to Sir Reginald Bray: it is probable that it was purchased of his representatives by the Dormer family.

The parish church is supposed to have been built soon after the manor was given to the nunnery of St. Mary de Pré. In the north aisle is the tomb of Sir Robert Dormer, grantee of the manor, who died in 1552: in the burial place of the Dormers are handsome monuments of Sir William Dormer, who died in 1575, (with his effigies in gilt armour) and Robert the first Lord Dormer, who died in 1617: there are some monuments also for the family of Fines.

The great tithes of this parish were appropriated to the abbey of St. Nicholas, at Angiers, and afterwards to the nunnery of St. Mary de Pré. The rectorial estate is now the property of the Earl of Chesterfield, who is patron of the vicarage. The parish has been inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1797, when allotments of land were given to the impropiator and the vicar, in lieu of tithes, and

^a Pat. 2 Edw. II.

^b Pat. 8 Edw. II.

an allotment to the poor for fuel. Dorothy Lady Pelham, sometime wife of Sir William Dormer, founded an alms-house at Wing, in the year 1596, for eight poor persons, and endowed it with 3*ol. per annum*.

Ascot, *Burcot*, and *Crofton*, are hamlets in this parish; *Cotflow*, a depopulated hamlet, of which only one house remains, gives name to the hundred. The manor of Ascot was given by Richard Grenville esq. to Sir Robert Dormer, in exchange for an estate in Wotton, and has since passed with Wing.

WINGRAVE, in the hundred of Cotflow and deanery of Muresley, lies nearly six miles north-east of Aylesbury. When this parish was inclosed by act of parliament in 1797, separate and distinct manors were claimed by the Prince of Wales, as Duke of Cornwall; the Mercers' Company, the Rev. John Deacle as impropiator, the Earl of Chesterfield, and John Tirel-Morin esq. Lord Chesterfield's manor was anciently the property and seat of the Pipards, from whom it passed by a female heir to the Lisles: the marriage between Thomas Lord Berkeley, and Margaret the heiress of that noble family, was celebrated in their manor-house at Wingrave: by subsequent alliances this manor passed to the Beauchamps and Nevilles; in 1531 it was purchased by the Hampdens, and in 1607 by the Dormers, from whom it passed by a female heir to the Stanhopes.

The great tithes of this parish were appropriated to the abbey of St. Albans. A dispute between John de Wedon and the abbot of St. Albans, about the patronage of this church, was determined in favor of the abbot in 1250^c. The impropriate rectory having since the reformation been successively in the families of Duncombe, Wilford, Abraham, Deane, and Balingier, has now been for a considerable time in the family of Deacle. The Earl of Bridgewater is patron of the vicarage.

Rowsham, a large hamlet in this parish, had formerly a chapel of ease. Sir John Cobham gave the manor to the crown in the reign of Edward III: it has long been annexed to Wingrave.

The parish of Wingrave, including the hamlet of Rowsham, has been inclosed as above-mentioned; allotments of land were made to the impropiator and vicar in lieu of tithes.

WINSLOW, in the hundred of Cotflow and deanery of Muresley, is a market town about fifty miles from London, on the road to Buckingham. The market, which is on Thursdays, is very inconsiderable. It was granted, in 1235, to the abbot and convent of St. Albans, to whom the manor had been given by King Offa: the grant includes the right of holding a fair at the festival of St. Lawrence^d.

^c M. Paris, p. 675.

^d Cart. 19 Hen. III.

There are now five annual fairs, March 20; Holy Thursday; August 21; September 22; and the Thursday before October 11. In 1599, the manor of Winslow was granted to Sir John Fortescue, who in 1619 sold it to Sir George Villiers, afterwards Duke of Buckingham: it was purchased in 1697, under an act of parliament, of the representatives of the second duke, by William Lowndes esq. secretary of the treasury, and is now the property of his great-grandson, William Selby esq. who took that name on succeeding to the estates bequeathed to him by the late — Selby esq. Mr. Selby has a seat at Winslow, which was built by Secretary Lowndes in the year 1700.

The parish church, which is a spacious Gothic structure, contains no monuments worthy of notice. The great tithes, which were appropriated to the abbey of St. Albans, are the property of Mr. Selby: the vicarage, which is in the diocese of London, and in the peculiar jurisdiction of the archdeacon of St. Albans, is in the gift of the crown.

Mr. Joseph Rogers, in 1722, bequeathed a sum of money towards founding a charity school at this place.

The manor of *Shipton*, a hamlet of this parish, has passed with Winslow. Certain fields within the hamlet of Shipton, were inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1743; and the whole parish by an act passed in 1766, when allotments of land were assigned to the impropriator and vicar, and a small allotment for the poor.

WOLVERTON, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies about a mile north-east of Stony-Stratford: it was the seat of the barony of Maigno Brito, a powerful Norman, whose descendants took the name of Wolverton: the family became extinct in the male line, in the reign of Edward III. John Longueville, who died in 1439, was possessed of this manor by marriage with Joan, daughter and heir of John Hunt, by his wife Margaret, daughter and sole heir of Sir John de Wolverton. The manor of Wolverton continued in the family of Longueville nearly 300 years. Sir John Longueville, who was owner of Wolverton in Leland's time, lived to the age of 103: his descendant, Sir Edward Longueville, was created a baronet of Nova Scotia in 1638, being described of this place: the title is now extinct. Sir Edward Longueville, the last baronet but one, broke his neck by a fall from his horse at Bicester races in 1718, and it is remarkable, that his father Sir Thomas, met with his death by a similar accident in 1685. About six years before his death, Sir Edward Longueville abovementioned, sold Wolverton to the celebrated physician, Dr. Radcliffe, who bequeathed it with other large estates in trust for the university of Oxford.

The keep of Maigno Brito's castle remains near the vicarage. The feat of the Longuevilles, which was re-built in 1586, has been pulled down: Browne Willis describes it as a magnificent mansion.

In the parish church is the monument of Sir Thomas Longueville above-mentioned, who died in 1685: numerous entries of births and burials of this family occur in the parish register.

The great tithes which were appropriated to the Priory of Bradwell, were granted by Queen Elizabeth to Sir John Spencer, whose grandson, Spencer Compton, Earl of Northampton, sold them about the year 1650 to the Longuevilles: having been included in Dr. Radcliffe's purchase, and in his bequest to the university, they are now vested in the trustees under his will, who are patrons of the vicarage.

The priory of Bradwell adjoining to this parish, the site of which is now deemed extraparochial, was founded in the reign of King Stephen, for black monks, by Manfelin, Baron of Wolverton: it was dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and was originally a cell to Luffield. In 1526 it was given with other small monasteries to Cardinal Wolsey; after his attainder, the king granted it with the manor, in the year 1531, to the prior and convent of Sheen^c: the site was granted after the reformation, to Arthur Longueville esq. From the Longuevilles it passed by purchase to the Lawrences, in 1647; and from them, in 1664, to Sir Joseph Alston bart. then of Chelsea, who made Bradwell Abbey his residence: after his death it was successively in the families of Fuller and Owen. About the year 1730 the Bradwell Abbey estate was purchased by Sir Charles Gunter Nicholl, K. B. whose only daughter and heir married the late Earl of Dartmouth: it is now vested in their son, the present earl. The site of the abbey, of which there are no remains, is occupied as a farm-house.

WOOBURN, in the hundred of Desborough and deanery of Wycombe, lies about four miles and a half east of Great-Marlow. There were anciently two manors in this parish. The manor of Bishop's-Wooburn had been from time immemorial in the fee of Lincoln, till the year 1547, when Bishop Holbeach gave it to the crown in exchange: it was granted, in 1549, to John Ruffel, Earl of Bedford. Francis, the second earl, sold it about the year 1580, to Sir John Goodwin, whose ancestors had resided at Wooburn above 100 years, as tenants to the Bishops of Lincoln. Sir Francis Goodwin, (son of Sir John,) was several times knight of the shire. The dispute concerning the legality of his election in 1604, proved the cause of

^c Manning's Surrey, vol. i. p. 418.

establishing the great constitutional doctrine, that the house of commons have the sole right of judging and deciding on the validity of their own elections and returns. Sir Francis was a particular friend of the celebrated John Hampden, and zealously concurred with his measures at the commencement of the disputes between King Charles and his parliament. His son, Arthur Goodwin, left an only daughter, Jane, married to Philip Lord Wharton, who became possessed in her right of the manors of Over-Winchendon and Wooburn, at both which places he occasionally resided. Soon after the revolution he had the honour of a visit at Wooburn, from King William; his son, who was some years afterwards created Marquis of Wharton, having been the person who drew up the address which invited that monarch to take possession of the British throne. The Marquis of Wharton was succeeded, in 1715, by his son Philip, who was created Duke of Wharton, in 1718: after the death of this nobleman, whose extraordinary abilities and more extraordinary eccentricities have been so well described by Pope, the manor of Wooburn having been before mortgaged to the celebrated Col. Chartres, who resided some time at the manor-house, was sold in 1732 to John Morse esq. whose niece and heir brought it in marriage to the Berties. In 1784 it was purchased of Albemarle Bertie esq. by Mrs. Rebecca Dupré, mother of James Dupré esq. of Wilton Park, who is the present proprietor.

The old manor-house was a palace of the Bishops of Lincoln. Bishop Smith, the founder of Brazen Nose-College, died at Wooburn in 1513, as did his successor, Bishop Atwater, in 1520. Bishop Longland, confessor to King Henry VIII. who was a native of Henley, frequently resided at Wooburn, where he died in 1547, a few months before it was alienated from the see by his successor. The palace was pulled down in 1750: Mr. Langley, in his history of the hundred of Deffborough, informs us that the old gallery, which was 120 feet in length, was in the time of the Whartons, hung with the valuable portraits of that family, which were afterwards in Sir Robert Walpole's collection at Houghton. He speaks of a small room adjoining the chapel, called Little-ease, for the confinement of Heretics, in which the unfortunate Thomas Chafe, of Amersham, was barbarously murdered in 1506, being then a prisoner there on a charge of heresy. Bishop Smith, whose character has been severely handled on account of this and other cruelties exercised in his diocese, has been ably defended by the learned Dr. Churton, of Brazen-Nose College. Indeed Fuller, in his Church History, seems inclined to believe that these cruelties were not perpetrated by the directions or with the knowledge of that prelate, being very inconsistent with his general character.

The famous Marquis of Wharton, and the more famous Duke, as Granger calls them, are said to have expended incredible sums of money on the house and gardens at Wooburn. The gardens, which were much admired, are said to have been a continuation of terraces, of which scarcely a vestige remains. When the house was pulled down, Mr. Bertie fitted up one of the wings, which has since been enlarged and improved: it is now occupied by the Countess of Orkney.

The manor of Wooburn-Deincourt belonged to the ancient family of Deincourt, from the time of the Norman Survey till the year 1422, when it passed by a female heir to the Lovells. Upon the attainder of Francis Lord Lovell it became vested in the crown, and in 1513 was granted, for a term of years, to Sir William Compton, who occasionally resided at Wooburn. In 1597 it was granted in fee to Robert Spencer and Robert Atkins; not long afterwards it came into the Goodwin family, by the marriage of Sir John Goodwin, with Anne daughter of Sir William Spencer: since which time the two manors have been united. The ancient seat of the Deincourts and Lovells was near the church.

The manor of Lude, or Lyde, in Wooburn (called in the Norman Survey Lede) has passed with Bishop's-Wooburn, and is now the property of Mr. Dupré, who, in the inclosure act, is called also lord of the manor of "the Glory" in this parish.

The parish church is a spacious Gothic structure. The tower was built about the year 1480, as appears by the epitaph of John Goodwin, and Pernell his wife, who are called its founders. In the chancel are monuments of the families of Bertie and Wharton, among which is that of Philip Lord Wharton, who died in 1695.

The rectory, which was appropriated to the see of Lincoln about the year 1330, is now the property of Mr. Dupré, who is patron of the vicarage. Philip Lord Wharton gave a rent charge of 22*l.* 10*s.* *per annum* to the vicar, for preaching an evening lecture on Sundays. The parish of Wooburn has been enclosed by an act of parliament passed in 1802, when allotments of land, in lieu of tithes, were assigned to the impropiator and to the vicar, and an allotment to the poor for fuel.

There is an annual fair at Wooburn, for which Lord Wharton obtained a charter in 1686, on All-Souls day, O.S., now November 14th. A fair on the translation of St. Edward the king, now discontinued, was granted by King Henry VI. to Alice Lovell, lady of the manor of Wooburn-Deincourt^f.

^f Cart. 27—39 Henry VI.

WOOLSTON-MAGNA, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies three miles south of Newport-Pagnell, on the road to Fenny-Stratford. The manor was anciently in the families of Peyvre and Green, afterwards in the Staffords, from whom it passed by marriage to the Mordaunts, about the year 1642. It is now the property of William Selby esq. of Winslow, whose ancestor, Mr. Lowndes, became possessed of it about the beginning of the last century.

James Nield esq. is patron of the rectory. The parish has been inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1796, when a corn-rent was settled on the rector in lieu of tithes.

WOOLSTON-PARVA, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies near Woolston-Magna, a little more than three miles south of Newport-Pagnell, on the road to Fenny-Stratford. The manor was successively in the families of Paganell, Somery, Coudray, Tyringham, and Broughton. In 1575 it was purchased by the Duncombes, in whose family it continued nearly two centuries : it now belongs to Mr. Smith. Another manor, which was successively in the Giffards, Clares, and Staffords, being part of the honor of Gloucester, was some years ago in the family of Neale : it has since been the property of Sir John Riddell, and now belongs to Mr. Hanscomb of Newport.

The advowson of the rectory belonged formerly to the priory of Cumbwell, in Kent : it is now in the crown. This parish has been inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1791 : the lands were not exonerated from tithes.

WORMENHALL, in the hundred of Ashendon and deanery of Waddeston, lies on the borders of Oxfordshire, about five miles north-west of Thame. It had formerly a market on Thursdays, granted in 1304, together with a fair on the festival of St. Peter and St. Paul, to John de Rivers, who it is probable was at that time lord of the manor : at a later period it was in the Ingeltons, from whom it passed by a female heir to the Tyrrells. In 1720 the manor of Wormenhall was bought by Edward Rudge esq. of the Tipping family, who had succeeded the Tyrrells in the year 1560 : it is now the property of Edward Horne esq. of the Leafowes, having been purchased of the Rudges by his father, Samuel Horne esq. about the year 1772.

Sir Clement Cottrell Dormer has for several years given a deputation for the free warren of Wormenhall.

In

In the parish church are some memorials of the family of King; John King, Bishop of London, and Henry King, Bishop of Chichester, a learned writer and a poet, were both of this family, and natives of Wormenhall. John King esq. son of the bishop of Chichester, founded an alms-house at this place in 1675, for four poor women and six poor single men, who receive eight shillings and four-pence each monthly, from the donation of the founder.

Thumley, a hamlet of this parish, is in Oxfordshire.

WOTTON-UNDERWOOD, in the hundred of Ashendon and deanery of Wadefdon, lies about nine miles nearly west of Aylesbury, and about the same distance from Bicester, in Oxfordshire. It was called Wotton-Underwood from its situation with respect to Bernwood forest, which was disforested by King James I. The manor, among many others, was given by William the Conqueror, to Walter Giffard, Earl of Buckingham: Isabel, daughter and co-heir of Walter the second earl, is said to have brought it in marriage about the year 1097, to Richard de Grenville, from whom there has been an uninterrupted line of male succession, through twenty generations, to the present proprietor, the Marquis of Buckingham.

Wotton-house has been from time immemorial the seat of the Grenvilles. The present mansion was built in 1705, after the model of Buckingham-house; the staircase and saloon were painted by Sir James Thornhill, who was paid 1000*l.* a year during three years, for his professional labours at Wotton. This mansion was the principal and favourite residence of the Right Hon. George Grenville, first lord of the Treasury, and chancellor of the exchequer, in the early part of the reign of his present majesty: it is now the occasional residence of Lord Temple, the Marquis of Buckingham's eldest son.

Burwells manor, in Wotton, which had in ancient times belonged to the Grenville family, was given by Sir Robert Dormer to Richard Grenville esq. in exchange for the manor of Ascot in Wing¹.

The parish church of Wotton has been lately repaired, and a new stone-spire built by the Marquis of Buckingham. In the Grenville chapel or south aisle, which was originally built, in 1343, by William Grenville and Mary his wife, a large *columbarium* has been lately erected by the Marquis of Buckingham, for the interment of his family. The ancient monuments of the Grenvilles have been replaced and restored, some memorials of later date added, and the arms of the family

¹ Collins's Peerage.

and its alliances emblazoned under the superintendence of Francis Townsend esq. Windfor Herald. The windows also have been ornamented with the arms and quarterings of the families of Grenville, Temple, and Chandos, executed in stained glass by Eginton. The rectory of Wotton, which had been appropriated to the priory of St. Bartholomew, was annexed to the see of Canterbury, in the reign of Henry VIII. The parish of Wotton has been inclosed by an act of Parliament, passed in 1742, when an allotment of land in the neighbouring parish of Brill, was, in consequence of an exchange which took place under the act, given to the see of Canterbury in lieu of the great tithes. In consequence of a liberal donation for the augmentation of the curacy, the archbishop of Canterbury, under the powers of Queen Anne's bounty act, has lately conveyed the patronage of the donative to the Marquis of Buckingham.

WOUGHTON, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies about four miles and a half south of Newport-Pagnell, on the road to Fenny-Stratford. The manor was anciently in the family of Verley, from whom it passed by heirs female, to the Muxons, Botetorts, Greys, and Longuevilles. A third part of the manor continued for some time in the last-mentioned family, and having been sold with Wolverton by Sir Edward Longueville, is now vested in Dr. Radcliffe's trustees. The other two parts passed to the families of Vavafor, Nicholls, and Troutbeck; they are now the property of the Rev. Mr. Dreyer, who is patron and incumbent of the rectory. The parish has been inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1768, when an allotment of land was assigned to the rector in lieu of tithes: it was provided by the act that the proprietors of the inclosed lands should deliver yearly to the poor a certain number of faggots (to be determined by the commissioners) in lieu of their right to cut furze on the waste lands. In the church are some memorials of the family of James.

HIGH, or CHIPPING-WYCOMBE, a large market town, 29 miles from London, on the road to Oxford, lies within the hundred of Desborough, and in the deanery to which it gives name. The market, which is on Fridays, has been held from time immemorial: it is a great mart for corn and other articles. There is only one annual fair, the Monday before Michaelmas. The town, which is much the handsomest in the county, is situated on the banks of a small river, which rises at West-Wycombe, and in its course through this parish, turns several corn and paper mills. High-Wycombe has sent members to parliament since the year 1300; the right of election is vested in the mayor, aldermen, bailiffs, and burgessees, the
number

number of which at present is about 180. Edmund Waller, the poet, was one of the representatives of this borough in 1625: the brave Sir Edmund Verney, King Charles's standard bearer, who fell at the battle of Edghill, was elected in the parliaments of 1639 and 1640: Thomas Scott the regicide, was one of the representatives during the protectorate of Cromwell. The town appears to have been first incorporated in 1461, but the mayor and aldermen are mentioned in a record of the reign of Edward III.: the earliest charter now existing among the records of the corporation, bears date 1586. The corporation consists of a mayor, twelve aldermen, a recorder, and other officers; the office of High Steward was annulled by the charter of King Charles II. but has since that time by virtue of former charters been held by the Earl of Bridgwater, Lord Chancellor Jefferies, and the Marquis of Wharton. The town-hall (situated in the High-street) is a brick structure on stone pillars, built in 1757 at the expence of John Earl of Shelburne: in this hall are held the sessions for the town and other public meetings. The assizes for the county were held at High-Wycombe eleven times between the years 1683 and 1712. By the returns made to parliament under the population act in 1801, it appears that the town of High-Wycombe then contained 458 houses and 2349 inhabitants; of these 1088 were males and 1261 females: 58 persons only are described as chiefly employed in agriculture, and 386 in trade, manufactures, and handicraft. The whole number of houses in the town and parish appear to have been 836: the whole number of inhabitants 4248: the proportion of males 1943; of females 2305; the number of persons employed chiefly in agriculture 282, of those employed in trade, manufacture, and handicraft 724.

The only historical fact which has occurred relating to this town is a successful attack made by Prince Rupert on the parliamentary quarters at Wycombe in 1643, soon after the battle of Reading^k.

The manor of High-Wycombe was the property of Robert D'Oyley one of the followers of William the Conqueror, who acquired it by marriage with the daughter of Wigod de Wallingford. Robert Doyley's daughter and heir married Milo Crispin and afterwards Brien Fitzcount. She and her second husband having both assumed the habit of religion, the King (Henry II.) took possession of their estates, and gave this manor to his natural son Geoffrey Archbishop of York. In 1203, the greater part of the manor which afterwards acquired the name of Bassetsbury, was granted to Alan Basset, Lord Basset of Wycombe, from whose family it passed by a female heir to the Despencers, and in 1326 reverted to the crown by attainder.

^k Clarendon's History of the Rebellion, 8vo. edit. vol. II. p. 250.

In 1332 it was granted to William de Bohun¹, and on a partition of the inheritance of that noble family in 1421, became again vested in the crown. King Edward IV. gave it in 1479 to the church of Windsor. The lease of this manor became vested in the Dashwoods about the beginning of the last century: the present lessee is Sir John Dashwood King bart.

Robert Vipont, to whom a part of the manor of Wycombe was granted by King John, gave it to the Knights-Templars. This estate, now the manor of Temple-Wycombe, upon the abolition of that order, was given with most of their possessions to the Knights-Hospitallers. After the reformation it was granted (in 1552) to John Cock. This manor, the manor of Loakes (which, in 1483, had been the property of Robert Bardsey,) and the manor of Windfors or Chapel fee, which had been in the Windfors and afterwards in the family of Welles, were purchased by the Archdales in the early part of the 17th century, and having continued in that family till the year 1700 were sold by Thomas Archdale esq. to Henry Petty, Lord Shelburne (afterwards Earl of Shelburne,) who bequeathed all his estates to his nephew John Fitzmaurice esq. created Earl of Shelburne in 1753, and Baron of Chipping-Wycombe in 1760. His son, who was in 1784 created Earl Wycombe of Chipping-Wycombe and Marquis of Lansdown, sold these manors by auction in lots, which were soon afterwards (about the year 1795) all purchased by the present proprietor Lord Carrington.

The manor house of Loakes, which is situated near the town, was formerly the seat of the Archdales: it was considerably enlarged and improved by Lord Shelburne: the Marquis of Lansdown bestowed much cost in laying out the gardens and pleasure grounds. The house has been almost wholly rebuilt by the present noble owner in the Gothic style from the designs of Mr. Wyatt: it is now called Wycombe Abbey. The small river which passes through this parish runs through the pleasure grounds to which it is a great ornament.

The parish church is said by Mr. Langley in his history of the hundred of Deffborough to have been built in 1273: in the appendix he quotes the authority of Wharton's *Anglia Sacra* for its having been built and dedicated in the reign of Henry II. The present fabric is certainly of a much later date than either of those periods. Mr. Langley says that the tower was built in 1522; and ornamented with pinnacles at the expence of John Earl of Shelburne about the year 1755. Between the aisle of the church and the chancel is an ancient oak screen, which by an inscription on the north side appears to have been put up in 1460 at the expence of the family of Redhode, or Redhead. William Redhead the son was mayor of Wycombe in 1476.

¹ Pat. 6 Edw. III.

The altar piece painted by Mortimer represents St. Paul converting the Druids: it was given to the church by Dr. Bates of Little Missenden. In the chancel is the monument of Henry Petty, Earl of Shelburne, who died in 1751, by Scheemakers, erected at the expence of 2000*l.* bequeathed by him for that purpose. The effigies of the deceased is represented lying on a sarcophagus of black marble ornamented with several emblematical figures and a medallion of the celebrated Sir William Petty, the earl's father. In the south aisle is a very handsome monument for Sophia Countess of Shelburne (first wife of the late Marquis) who died in 1771, with a female figure reclining on an urn, by Carlini. There are memorials in the church for the families of Archdale, Lluelyn, Shrimpton, and Bradshaw. William Bradshaw, who died in 1614, was 103 years of age. In the church-yard is the tomb of Robert Williams the late sexton, who died in 1793 at the age of 102.

The rectory of High-Wycombe, which was formerly appropriated to the priory of Godstow, is now the property of Samuel Welles esq. in whose family it has been for several years. Lord Carrington is patron of the vicarage, the advowson of which had belonged to the Archdales and to the Shelburne family. Dr. Gumble who wrote the life of General Monk, and is supposed to have assisted him in concerting the measures which led to the restoration of King Charles II. was vicar of High-Wycombe.

The principal hamlets in this parish are the *Marsh*, *Flackwell-heath*, and *Loudwater*. At the latter is a chapel of ease, founded by Mr. Davis in 1791, and endowed with lands of the value of 40*l.* *per annum*.

High-Wycombe is at present the residence of the senior department of the Royal Military College, established in the year 1799, under the superintendance of Major-General Le Marchant, the Lieutenant-Governor, to whom the nation is indebted for the first suggestion of this very useful and laudable institution. The establishment is divided into two departments, one of which, called the first, or senior department, has hitherto been placed at High-Wycombe; the other, being the second, or junior department, at Great-Marlow; but it is intended to remove both, when the building about to be erected for their reception at Sandhurst, in Berkshire, shall be completed. This institution embraces a complete system of military education; the junior department is intended for the education of young persons, destined for the military profession, from the age of thirteen: the sons of those meritorious officers, either in the land or sea service, who have fallen or been disabled in the service of their country, and have left their families in need of pecuniary support; and the sons of all subaltern officers serving in the army,
are

are boarded, educated and supplied with clothing free of expence: the sons of captains and other officers are paid for according to their fathers' rank; the sons of Noblemen and gentlemen, young persons intended for the engineer or artillery service, and cadets in the service of the East India Company pay ninety guineas *per annum* for their education, boarding, and clothing.

The first, or senior department of the college, which is placed at High-Wycombe, is intended exclusively for the instruction of such officers as are desirous of qualifying themselves to serve in the general staff, and it is necessary, that previously to their admission they shall have served four years with their regiment, and be thoroughly conversant with the interior care of a company, and their duty in the field ^m.

There was formerly a hospital for lepers in this town dedicated to St. Margaret and St. Giles, which was founded before the year 1229. Another hospital dedicated to St. John the Baptist appears to have been founded before 1235: a record of the year 1344 speaks of it as in the patronage of the mayor and burgessees: it was granted by Queen Elizabeth to the corporation, and the lands are now applied to the maintenance of a hospital for poor people and a grammar school. Mr. Bowden, who died in 1790, gave the sum of 1000*l.* to be laid out in the funds for the purpose of paying 30*l.* *per annum*, in addition to the salary of the master, who receives the same sum from the hospital estate and has a house and garden with an orchard of two acres. The remainder of the produce of Mr. Bowden's donation is to be given to the poor of the hospital, in which there are now eight poor widows who receive 2*s.* a week each from the hospital chamberlain.

The learned William Alley, one of the translators of the Bible, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, who was promoted to the bishopric of Exeter in 1560 and died in 1570, was a native of this town. Charles Butler, author of a treatise on Rhetorick, and the Female Monarchy, or a treatise on bees, was also a native of High-Wycombe.

WEST-WYCOMBE, in the hundred of Desborough and deanery of Wycombe, lies about two miles from High-Wycombe on the road to Oxford: it was anciently called Haveringdon, or Haningdon. The manor was from ancient times in the fee of Winchester, and its profits were allotted for the support of the monks of that convent. Bishop Poynt having surrendered this manor to the crown in exchange, it was given by King Edward VI. to the Protector Somerset: Queen Mary restored it to the fee of Winchester; but on the deprivation of Bishop White, it was resumed by the crown, and given in 1602 to Sir Robert Dormer, whose

^m From the information of Major-general Le Marchant.

family had long been tenants to the bishops of Winchester, and had resided at West-Wycombe, before they became possessed of the manors of Wing and Ethorp. Charles Dormer, the last Earl of Carnarvon, sold this manor in 1670, together with the park, called Widenden Park, in West-Wycombe, to Thomas Lewes, Alderman of London, who, in 1698, conveyed it to his brothers-in-law, Sir Samuel Dashwood, and Francis Dashwood esq. : it soon afterwards became vested solely in the latter, who was created a baronet in 1707. His son Sir Francis, in 1763, became, in right of his mother, Baron Le Despencer : on his decease in 1781, the baronetage and manor of West-Wycombe, descended to his half-brother, Sir John Dashwood King, whose son and namesake is the present proprietor. Copyhold lands in this manor descend to the eldest male, or in default of males, to the eldest female heir, being never divided among coheiresses. The wife of a copyholder has a right to enjoy her husband's lands so long as she preserves a pure and chaste widowhood.

West Wycombe house, the seat of Sir John Dashwood King, which was built by Sir Francis Dashwood, was much enlarged, and finished with a profusion of ornaments by his son, Lord Le Despencer. It contains a large collection of pictures, most of which are copies from the old masters : there are several copies also of antique statues. The gardens, which were designed by Lord Le Despencer, have the advantage of a beautiful situation, and their disposition did credit to the taste of their noble owner ; but they are too much crowded with temples, statues, and vases : many of these have been of late removed, and the grounds have been improved by Repton. The small river which rises in this parish, winds through the park and gardens, and supplies a lake which was designed by Lord Le Despencer.

The manor of Toweridge, in this parish, was from time immemorial, till within a few years, the property and seat of the Darrells. Thomas Darrell esq. the last heir male of the family, was sheriff of the county of Buckingham in 1771, but falling into misfortunes, he died in great poverty. The manor was purchased not long after his death (in 1794) by Sir John Dashwood King.

The parish church stands on the summit of a steep hill, at a small distance from the village, within the site of an ancient circular entrenchment. It was rebuilt in 1763, (excepting the tower and chancel, which are part of a more ancient structure,) by Lord Le Despencer, who fitted it up in the Grecian style : the ceiling is painted with mosaic ornaments. There are fixed forms in lieu of pews; two arm chairs of mahogany, with small desks in front, serve for the pulpit and reading desk. In the chancel are monuments of Sir Francis Dashwood, and one of the Darrell family. Near the east end of the church is an hexagonal building, without a roof,

erected by Lord Le Despencer. One side of this building is inscribed to the memory of John Earl of Westmorland; another to George Doddington, Baron of Melcombe-Regis, whose legacy to Lord Le Despencer for the purpose of erecting a monument to his memory, was the cause of his lordship's building this singular mausoleum. Within side are several recesses for monuments, and small niches for the reception of urns and busts. The only monuments as yet put up within this mausoleum, are those of Lady Mary Fane, and Mary King, second and third wives of Sir Francis Dashwood bart. Sarah Baroness Le Despencer, who died in 1769, and her husband, Lord Le Despencer the founder, who died in 1781. In one of the recesses is the bust of Thomas Thompson M. D. to whom Whitehead addressed the poetical epistle, printed in his works, and in another a small urn, containing the heart of Paul Whitehead, the poet, who bequeathed it as a legacy to his noble friend, Lord Le Despencer. It was deposited in the mausoleum with much solemnity, on the 16th of August 1775, several months after Mr. Whitehead's death; the urn is thus inscribed:

“ Paul Whitehead esq. of Twickenham, Obiit Decemb. 30, 1774.

“ Unhallowed hands this urn forbear;
No gems nor orient spoil
Lie here conceal'd, but what's more rare,
A heart that knew no guile.”

The rectory of West-Wycombe was appropriated to the abbot and convent of Bisham, under whom it was held on lease for many years by the family of East, who were afterwards tenants under the crown. There are some ancient memorials for this family on brass plates in the church: Hugh East died at the age of 103, as appears by the parish register. King James, in 1607 granted the rectory of West-Wycombe in fee to the Anderfons: it was afterwards in the Dormers, from whom it passed with the manor to Alderman Lewes, and the Dashwoods. The vicarage was in the gift of the crown till 1723, when the Dashwoods procured a grant of the advowson in exchange: Sir John Dashwood King is the present patron. The vicarage has been augmented by Queen Anne's bounty: the vicarage house was rebuilt with flint, in the Italian style, by Lord Le Despencer.

WYLLIEN, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies about a mile and a half south of Newport-Pagnell, on the road to Fenny-Stratford. The manor was anciently in the Paganells: in the reign of Henry VII. it belonged to the Hanchets, afterwards to the families of White and Nicholls. In 1657 this manor was purchased by Colonel Hammond, who had the custody of King Charles I. in the Isle
of

of Wight: his daughter, in 1673 fold it to Dr. Busby, the celebrated master of Westminster school, who bequeathed it in trust for charitable uses.

The parish church, a small brick edifice, was built in 1680, at the expence of Dr. Busby, who gave a library for the vicar, and endowed the vicarage with the great tithes, which had been formerly appropriated to the priory of Tickford. He appointed 22 lectures on the catechism to be preached annually in this church, and vested the advowson of the vicarage in trustees, directing that they should nominate from time to time a student of Christ Church College, in Oxford, who had been educated at Westminster school.

WYRARDISBURY, in the hundred of Stoke and deanery of Burnham, is situated near the banks of the Thames, about three miles to the south of Colnbrook.

The manor belonged to the priory of Ankerwyke, in this parish, which was founded in the reign of Henry II. for Benedictine nuns, by Gilbert de Montfichet, and his son Richard, in honour of St. Mary Magdalen. In 1538, this priory, with the estates belonging to it, being then valued at 132l. 0s. 2d. *per annum*, was given to Bisham Abbey, and after the dissolution of that monastery in 1540, was granted to Lord Windsor. Having soon afterwards reverted to the crown by an exchange, the priory was given by King Edward VI. in 1550, to Sir Thomas Smith, the celebrated statesman, who resided at Ankerwyke. John Taylor, the deprived bishop of Lincoln, died under his roof at this place in 1553. Ankerwyke priory was afterwards for many years the seat of the Salter family, of whom it was purchased by the Lees. Elizabeth, daughter and heir of John Lee esq. of Ankerwyke, was the second wife of Sir Philip Harcourt, ancestor of the present proprietor, John Simon Harcourt esq. of whom Ankerwyke-house is rented by Mr. Cricket of the Commons: it was sometime ago in the occupation of Lord Shuldhham. There are no remains of the conventual buildings which are described as wholly ruinous in the report of the commissioners in the reign of Henry VIII. Soon after the dissolution, a mansion was built on the site, either by Lord Windsor or Sir Thomas Smith: the hall of this mansion still remains. Near the house is a remarkably large yew-tree, which, at six feet from the ground, measures 30 feet five inches in girthⁿ.

The manor of Wyrardisbury was demised in 1555, to Sir Walter Stonor, and in 1574, to Sir Thomas Smith: in 1628 it was granted in fee to John Sharow. It is now the property of Mr. Harcourt, by inheritance from the Lees, who purchased

ⁿ The girth at the bottom of the butt is 23 feet 3 inches, in the middle 28 feet 4 inches. From the information of the Rev. Mr. Brown, rector of Horton.

the site of Ankerwyke Priory, and it is probable the manor of Wyrardisbury also, of the Salters.

In the parish church are some monuments of the Harcourt family, and of Thomas Wright esq. and Thomas Gill esq. aldermen of London, partners in a very extensive business as stationers, who died within a fortnight of each other, in the year 1798.

The rectorial manor, impropriate tithes, and advowson of the vicarage, were given by King Edward III. to the dean and chapter of Windsor.

The parish has been inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in the year 1799. No mention is made in the act of any allotment for tithes. There are allotments for cottage rights, to the lord of the manor for right of soil; and willow plantations for the copyholders, to be held in severalty by copy of court-roll. A parcel of the waste was allotted for the purpose of holding a fair on the Friday in Whitsun-week, pursuant to ancient custom.

A manor in this parish, which had been seized by the crown during the minority of Ralph de Plaiz, was granted for life to John Fray, who was appointed chief baron of the exchequer in 1436^o: it appears to have been afterwards given to Eton College^p.

^o Rot. Parl. ^p Ibid.

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

BEDFORDSHIRE.

P. 16 and 60. Godfrey Thornton esq. died in November 1805.

P. 39. It appears that Col. Okey was not only an inhabitant of this county, but that he possessed so much influence in it as to have been appointed *Custos Rotulorum*, in which office he was succeeded by the Earl of Bedford, on the 6th of March 1660. See *Mercurius Politicus*, published by order of parliament, March 1—8, 1660.

P. 40, 41. Acts of parliament for inclosing the parishes of Arlesey and Aftwick, passed in 1804, after these pages were printed off. John Jackson esq. who appears to have made a recent purchase, is described in the acts as lord of the manor of both parishes, and impropiator of Arlesey; allotments of land were assigned in lieu of tithes.

P. 92. The Bedfordshire branch of the Cockayne family became extinct by the death of Samuel Cockayne esq. in 1746. A periodical paper^a of that date affirms that the representative of the family at that time was George, Count Cockayne, an officer in the Polish service, grandson of Scipio Cockayne of Shengay, in Cambridgeshire: Lord Cullen is said to be descended from a younger branch of the family. By the death of Mrs. Lucy Cockayne Cust, which happened in the month of February 1804, the manor of Cockayne-Hatley has devolved on her nephew Lord Brownlow, who makes it his occasional residence.

P. 108. Archbishop Rotheram, by his will bearing date 1498, (printed in Hearne's *Lib. Niger Scacc.* vol. 2. p. 667, second edition,) gave the manors of Someries, Luton *cum Hundredo* and Houghton, &c. to Sir Thomas Rotheram, his brother's eldest son in tail male.

P. 113. It appears by Archbishop Rotheram's will above-mentioned, that his mother and brother were interred in Luton Church.

P. 116. The manor, or reputed manor of Howe, in the parish of Meppershall, being now the property of Col. Osborn, was advertised for sale in the month of April 1805, but is as yet unsold.

P. 137, l. 3. for John read Laurence. The manor of Sharpenhoe, as being late the estate of Laurence Smyth, Clerk, deceased, has been lately advertised for sale under a decree of the court of Chancery.

^a The Daily Advertiser.

P. 137, and 138. The advowson of Stretly and the manor of Sundon were sold in 1802 to Robert Hopkins esq. of Tidmarsh in Berkshire.

P. 155. Richard Archer died seised of the manor of Hoe only as tenant by the courtesy: the fee was in the family of Lucy, who held it of the Todenhams as of their part of the barony of Bedford. The Lucys had also a manor in Carleton, which had belonged to the Pabenhams, and a manor in Ravensdon formerly belonging to the Trallys and held under the Mowbray family ^b.

BERKSHIRE.

P. 181. There is some inaccuracy in the account of the Loveden family in this page, which will be found corrected in p. 255.

P. 184. To the seats mentioned in this page add Benhams in Letcombe-Regis, the seat of Thomas Goodlake esq.

P. 185. Mrs. Goodlake has left Ham-house.

——— Hungerford-park, the seat of John Willes esq. is accidentally omitted in this page: an account of it will be found in p. 296.

P. 201, *note*. Dr. Beeke's paper is printed in vol. xv. of the *Archæologia*, p. 179.

P. 213. In the hall window at Ockholt-house are the arms of England, with antelopes as supporters, which circumstance renders it probable that it was built in the reign of Henry VI. antelopes having been used as supporters only by that monarch.

P. 251, and 444. By the death of Mrs. Crewe, the manors of Brimpton and Wolhampton have devolved to her son-in-law Lord Falmouth.

P. 263. On the Patent Roll of the 13th of Edward II. is a grant to John the hermit of the chapel of St. Leonard of Loffeld, in Windsor Forest, to inclose some land, parcel of the forest ^c. It is extremely probable that this chapel gave name to St. Leonard's hill in the parish of Clewer, and what adds strength to the conjecture is that the seat of the Dukes of Somerset was formerly called the Hermitage. That accomplished lady (when Countess of Hertford) dates several of her letters ^d, which are in print, from the Hermitage on St. Leonard's-hill.

P. 267. Pigmy's-Green is no doubt a corruption of Pinkney's-Green. See p. 266.

P. 270. Mr. Richmond Webb's estate has been lately purchased by the Earl of Radnor.

^b See Esch. 11 Edward IV. ^c Pat. 13 Edw. II. 5.

^d Written in the years 1737, 1738, and 1739.

P. 284. The manor of East-Hagbourn was purchased of the Knolles family by Lord Craven's ancestor in 1630. The Rev. I. Scoolt died in Nov. 1805.

P. 285. Southill, the seat of Sir Stephen Lushington (in the parish of East-Hampsted) was purchased of the Hon. Henry Bouverie in 1787: it has of late years passed through several hands, and was for some time the property and seat of the brave Earl Howe.

P. 291. The advowson of Hatford has, by a late purchase, become the property of Thomas Lewis esq.

P. 294. See also p. 185, and 314. By the death of the Rev. I. Loder, that family is become extinct in the male line: his estates devolve to the Rev. Robert Symonds, who married his only daughter.

P. 308. The manor of Lambourn was purchased by the Craven family in 1625. The manors of Blagrove, Eftbury, Bockhampton, Granfones, Hadley, and Pluknet, all in Berkshire, and apparently in the parish of Lambourn, were included in the purchase.

P. 313. Giraline de Curzon, Lord of the manor of Lockinge, in Berkshire, is the first of the family of Curzon on record, as stated in the peerages: he was a great benefactor to the abbot and convent of Abingdon.

P. 314. In the act of parliament which passed in 1804 for inclosing the township or hamlet of Charney, James Crowdy, Thomas Price Belcher, Daniel Giles, and William Pinder gent. (who purchased of Mr. Keck), are stated to be lords of the manor: the lands were not exonerated from tithes.

P. 315. The manor of Garford belonged to the family of Aldworth in 1545; it was sold to William Box in 1664. Lord Craven's ancestor purchased it of the Goddards in 1624.

P. 342, l. 8. for Prankard, read Welldale. Mr. Welldale and Mrs. Letitia Prankard succeeded in establishing a *joint* claim to the Knollys estates: on a division, the Berkshire estates became the property of Mr. Welldale.

P. 336. The passage beginning, "The gate-way of the abbey," line 18, should run thus. "The gate-house of the abbey is not of very antient date, but the gate-way, the arches of which are circular, is probably as ancient as the foundation of the monastery.

P. 407. By the death of Mr. Worthington, his estates have devolved to his sons, Thomas Giles, and Charles. Mr. Giles was not an uncle, but more distant relation. See also p. 167.

P. 411. Bowsey-hill, or Endalls, a manor, or reputed manor, in the parish of Wargrave, being then the property of Mrs. Edwards, was sold in 1803 to Mr. Edward Fromont.

P. 414. Fig. 1. in the plate annexed to this page, represents a seal appendant to a surrender from the warden and college of the free chapel of St. George at Windfor,

Windfor, to King Edward III. in the 30th year of his reign, of the manor of Old-Windfor, for the life of Oliver de Burdeux, by whom it had been demised to them for that term: it is preserved in the Chapter-house at Westminster.

P. 418. For "Don Alphonso, son of the King of Spain," read Alphonso the king's son.

P. 425. The monument of King Edward IV. is on the north side of the altar. See an account of it, p. 210.

P. 432. Sir William Compton, ancestor of the Earl of Northampton, was ranger of the great park at Windfor, and resided in the lodge there. The ranger-ship of Cranborn Chace is become vacant by the death of his Royal Highness the late Duke of Gloucester; a new appointment has not yet been announced.

P. 435. Dr. Foster, provost of Eton, who published a learned dissertation on "Accent," was a native of Windfor, and lies buried in the church-yard, where there is a monument to his memory.

P. 437. Ferne-hill was sold by auction in the month of November 1805; the purchaser was Sir T. T. Metcalfe bart.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

P. 451, l. 16. for "who, in the early part of the war, had a garrison," read "In the early part of the war the King had a garrison."

P. 472. For Sir John Aubrey inherits "his feat at Dourton in this county," read "estates in this county." See the account of Dourton, p. 552.

P. 493. Near the churches of Great and Little Kimble are some earth-works and a mount. On the hills in the parish of Great Kimble, towards Hampden, is a deep intrenchment of an irregular form: the hill above Kimble castle, mentioned in p. 493, was formerly called Belinesbury, now Beacon-hill.

P. 496, 497, 498. Henry Brudenell of Amertham, who died about the year 1430, had a son, Edmund, who was ancestor of the Brudenells of Shardeloes; his younger son Robert was ancestor of the Brudenells of Stoke-Mandeville. William Brudenell, brother of Henry, married the heiress of a branch of the Bullstrode family, and inherited Hedgerley. (See p. 577.) Edmund Brudenell, lord of the manor of Raans, had an only daughter and heir who married Richard Waller esq. of the county of Kent, son of Richard Waller who took the Duke of Orleans prisoner at the battle of Agincourt, and ancestor of Edmund Waller the poet^f. This match it is probable was the occasion of the Wallers feasting themselves at Colehill.

P. 504. The population of Buckingham (2605) has inadvertently been inserted instead of that of Aylesbury (3082). The observation connected with it is just, nevertheless, although the difference in numbers is not so striking.

P. 505. It was the fee-simple of the prebendal house and pleasure-ground only,

^f Collins's Peerage.

which

which was purchased with the manor by Mr. Browne; the greater part of the estate still continues to be annexed to the Prebend.

P. 506. By the original record referred to by Dugdale, it appears that both the ancient hospitals spoken of in this page were of royal foundation. The record which is an inquisition taken for the purpose of ascertaining the state of the hospitals, and by what means they came into the king's hands, states that they had been both founded by the king's progenitors; the hospital of St. John for impotent infirm poor, St. Leonard's for lepers or other sick persons; that some lands in Weston-Turville and Stoke-Mandeville had been appropriated to the hospital of St. John, and some lands in Hartwell to that of St. Leonard without the king's licence; that the buildings of both had long fallen to decay, and the hospital of St. Leonard had been converted to secular uses^f.

P. 508. The Bennets of Bechampton were collateral ancestors of the Earl of Tankerville.

P. 531. By a fine levied, 36 Hen. III. between Richard Earl of Cornwall, and Joan de Ferrars, the manor of Cippenham, with the advowson of the chapel there, was limited to the said Joan for life, with remainder to the Earl of Cornwall and his heirs^g.

Ibid. l. 25. Between "Windfor" and "Darrell" add Hodenge. On a division of the barony of Windfor between Walter and William Fitz-Other, in the reign of Richard I. Walter had Burnham, Beaconsfield, and Eton: his daughter and co-heir married Ralph de Hodenge. See p. 507 and p. 560. Burnham and Huntercombe appear to have reverted to the Windfor family: Sir Miles Windfor died seised of those manors, 10 Richard II.

P. 535, l. 1. Instead of "which passed," read "a purparty, or fourth part of which passed."

P. 542. Sir Eustace Grenville and Thomas de Haye who married two co-heiresses of Robert Darcie, baron of Coggs, alienated the manors of East-Claydon, Bottle-Claydon, and Shabbington, to Walter de Grey, archbishop of York, who conveyed them to his brother Robert, and Walter his son. See also p. 628^h.

P. 528, l. 11. Richard Fowler, the ancestor of this family, was an eminent soldier in the crusadesⁱ.

P. 556. By the death of the Rev. Richard Wells and his brother Joseph Wells, gent. joint impropiators, the Rev. Dr. Joseph Wells, son of the former, is become sole impropiator, patron, and vicar, of the parish of Ellefborough.

P. 558. It is probable that Mr. Cole had mistaken the Will of Archbishop Rotheram, (by which ornaments were bequeathed to the college at Rotheram, for the use of the *bairn*-bishop,) for that of Bishop Blythe.

^f Bundell. Placit de Terr. &c. in Turr. London. co. Bucks. No. 25. ^g Ibid. No. 2.

^h Collins. ⁱ Kimber, III. 11 and 12.

P. 594. Mr. Oldham's right of nominating to the donative of Lee has been questioned, in consequence of which the benefice when lately vacant lapsed to the Bishop, who nominated the present curate on the recommendation of Mr. Deering, lord of the manor.

P. 598. Mr. Hollier has sold his share of the manor of Tetchwick to Mr. Betts, a farmer; the other shares are the property of neighbouring farmers.

P. 606. The manor of Berrysted, in Mentmore, with a manor-house near the church, being the property of J. Tirel-Morin esq. were sold in 1804; the manor-house, with the greater part of the estate, was purchased by Mr. Harper.

P. 613. By the death of Mr. Hooton, Tickford-abbey has devolved to his son-in-law Mr. Ward.

P. 617, l. 22, instead of "this manor," read "a purparty, or fourth party of this manor."

P. 621. The cloisters at Atheridge were afterward pulled down (by direction of the late Duke of Bridgwater) and the materials sold; some of these were used for mending roads.

P. 627. Sir Thomas Windfor, who is described as of Prince's Risborough, by his will, bearing date 1552, bequeathed a manor in that parish to Ann his daughter and heir, who married Sir Henry Grey ancestor of the Earl of Stamford. The tower of the parish church of Prince's-Risborough having fallen down in 1803, a new tower has been since built by the parish, and a spire erected on it by subscription.

P. 628. The Rev. G. H. P. Jeroise died Nov. 3, 1805. See also p. 468.

P. 634. The manor of Eakley-Lane was sold, in 1804, to Sir Robert Gunning bart.

P. 656. The manor-farm of Collet was sold in the month of June, 1805, to Mr. Jones of West Smithfield.

Ibid. It is somewhat remarkable that Guy Carleton, who was afterwards bishop of Chichester, being then vicar of Bucklebury, in Berkshire, (to which vicarage he was instituted in 1635), is said to have done good service in the cavalry during the civil war^k on the King's side.

P. 667. Mr. Tirel-Morin's manor has lately been sold to Mr. Lucas of North-place, Gray's Inn-lane.

^k See A. Wood.

FURTHER ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

P 59. By the death of Henry Beauchamp, Lord St. John, which happened December 18, 1805, the title and estates of that noble family have devolved to his only brother the Honourable St. Andrew St. John.

P. 179. By the death of Charles Fettiplace esq. which happened Dec. 16, 1805, that ancient name became again extinct. The Fettiplace estates devolve to Richard Gorges esq. whose mother was sister to the late Mr. Fettiplace. See also p. 20. 288. and 361.

P. 184 and 410. Warfield-Grove is now the property of the Earl of Mountnorris, having been purchased by him of Sir J. Coxe Hippeley.

P. 204. Charney should have been here mentioned as a chapel.

P. 283. Henry Elfying, here mentioned, who lived in the reign of Charles I. was Clerk of the House of Commons. Henry Elfying his father was Clerk of the House of Lords.

P. 317. The first battle of Newbury was fought principally on a hill near the town, and on Enborne-heath. In Dr. Sanderfon's History of the Life and Reign of King Charles I., is the following order from the Earl of Essex to Mr. Fulk, the minister; and to the Constables of Enborne—"These are to will and require you forthwith upon sight to bury all the dead bodies lying in and about Enborne, and Newbury-wash, upon your peril of disobeying—the one and twentieth of September 1643. ESSEX."

Dr. Sanderfon says, that the King and Queen stood all day upon the hill to see the fight. P. 647, 648.

P. 357. In Dr. Sanderfon's History of the Life and Reign of King Charles I., (P. 273, 374,) are two very spirited replies of the Governor of Donnington Castle (who is there called *Bloys*) to Colonel Horton. The first summons was as follows:

"To the Governor of Donnington,

"Sir,—I demand the castle now in your possession for the use of King and Parliament which if you deny—at your peril.—Sep. 29, 1644.

* JER. HORTON."

To this Capt. Boys returned answer,

"Sir,—I have received your summons. I shall keep this place wherein I am entrusted by his Majesty in despite of all your forces, contemning the peril you

mentioned and should be ashamed, were I in extremetie, to render this castle to fo
inconsiderable a partie.

Sep. 29, 1644.

JO. BOYS."

To a second summons, after Col. Horton had received reinforcements, he
replied as follows;

" Sir,

" Neither your new addition of forces nor your high threatening shall deter me,
nor the rest of those honest men with me from our loyalty to our Sovereign ; but
do resolve to maintain this place to the uttermost of our powers ; and for the
matter of our quarters, you may expect the like.

Oct. 7, 1644.

JOHN BOYS."

P. 428. Dr. Sanderfon, in his Life of King Charles I., (p. 888) says, that " the
curious costly elaborate tomb, erected at the immense charge of Cardinal Wolfey,"
for his master King Henry VIII., was sold by order of Parliament, under the de-
scription of defaced brafs, for 600*l.* and the money given to Col. Venn who was
then Governor.

P. 473. In the list of gentlemen's seats, Checkers, the seat of Robert Green-
hill esq. is accidentally omitted. See an account of it, p. 555.

P. 643. The figure of the seal of Luffield Priory, at p. 424, was drawn from an
impression of the original *matrix* in the possession of the Rev. Charles Prescot of
Stockport, in Cheshire.

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END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

ERRATA.

Page 12 line 8, dele St.

- 18 — 1, for rove read over.
- 29 — 34, for Albrena read Albreda.
- 32 — 12, for Wheatenhurst read Whethamsted
- 51 — 14, for freeman read freemen.
- 57 in the notes, for Stratten read Barnett.
- 75 — 19, and 81, l. 26, for Norman read Saxon.
- 80 — 9, for Bathonian read Bathonia.
- 89 — penult. for 1672 read 1671.
- 108 — 29, for Farmer read Fermor.
- 141 — 1, for Morteye read Morteyne.
- 147 — 2, foreign read alien.
- 153 — 1, Kellegrew read Killegrew.
- 155 — 2, Isabella read Ifolda.
- 167 — 3, Pottinger read Potenger.
- 168 — 14, the first column, for Elridge read Ebridge.
- 184 — — the first column of gentlemen's seats, and p. 411, l. 13, for Moses read Moris.
- 185 — — the first column, for Atkyns read Atkins.
- 187 — 90, l. 6.—p. 193, l. 1.—p. 201, l. 3, of the notes.—p. 202, l. 1, of the notes;
an . 21, for Beke read Beeke.
- 194 — — built read rebuilt.
- — in the note, for Stratfield-Turgin read Stratfield-Turgis.
- 214 — ult. for Lelands read Leland.
- 235 — 30, for two read three.
- 237 — 28, for Rich read Richard.
- 244 — 2, for the Earl of Dorchester read Lord Dorchester.
- 248 — 17 and 18, dele "who is a minor;" and p. 249, l. 15, 16, dele "a minor."
- 251 — 6, for Stoke read Stokes.
- 252 — 9, for father read grandfather.
- 253 — 2, and p. 311, l. 5, for Stevens read Stephens.
- 254 — 26, after BURFIELD read or BURGHFIELD.
- 255 — 19, for Crenden read Crendon.
- 261 — 31, for Ranson read Ransom.
- 278 — 15, after "name" insert "of."
- 319 — 19, after "and" read "is."
- 359 — 15, for Paverell read Peverell.
- 382 — 3, for Bromchall read Bromehale.
- — 19, for Barber read Baber.
- 391 — penult. for Somety read Somery.
- 402 — 13, for Antiquarians read antiquaries.
- — 30, for Clapcoe read Clapcote.
- 413 — 17, for Percy read Percy.
- 418 — — in the lower notes, for Drokensfend read Drokensford.
- 425 — 13, dele the words "the late."
- 433 — 1, after the late Duke read of Cumberland.
- 468 — 28, for Wenman read William.
- 474 — — in the first column, and p. 592, l. 11, for Dawkins read Dawkie.
- 487 — 16, for Lathburg read Lathbury.
- 492 — 25, for thirteenth read fourteenth.
- 504 — 17, for 1758 read 1748.
- 533 — 13, for 1217 read 1215.
- 561 — 3, for Fernival read Furnivall.
- 563 — 14, for Ayotes read Ayetes.
- 574 — 6, for Chesham read Amersham.
- — 23, and 575, l. 7, for Charles read George.
- 598 — 6, for Luder read Luda.
- 604 — 1, after found read in the calendars.
- 614 — 34, for Godic read Godric.
- 622 — 13, for South west read North-west.
- 648 — 31, for whose mother read whose wife's mother.
- 688 — 23, for Jeroife read Jervoise.

I N D E X.

IN consequence of some Additions made to Sheet 4 S, after the Index was printed off, the following Names are to be added.

Alphonso, 686.
Blythe, 687.
Bourdeaux, 686.
Gloucester, 686.
Hooton, 688.
Jervoise, 688.

Knollys, 685.
Loder, 685.
Rotheram, 683—687.
Smyth, 683.
Symonds, 685.
Worthington, 685.

H, 65.

Pla

In the reference to *Archer*, for 68 read 684.

ERRATA in the INDEX of NAMES.

For Suffolk read Suffolk.

IN THE GENERAL INDEX.

Page 713, Ccl. 1, l. 7, for *St. John* read *Sir John*.







